Wednesday, September 26, 2007 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 290 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Schwarzenegger, Gore star in UN climate summit
WORLD / A24

Fukuda elected Japan PM
WORLD / A23

Mark Jimenez 'forgives' Nani Perez, wife, children
NEWS/ A2

2bU! guide to new iPod
LIFESTYLE / D1

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Buddhist monks lead Burma People Power

RANGOON—BUDDHIST MONKS LED 100,000 people through the streets of Burma's biggest city on Tuesday, defying threats of a crackdown from the military junta facing the stiffest challenge to its rule in 20 years.

In a show of defiance against the generals and their iron grip on Burma (Myanmar),

BUDDHIST/ A4

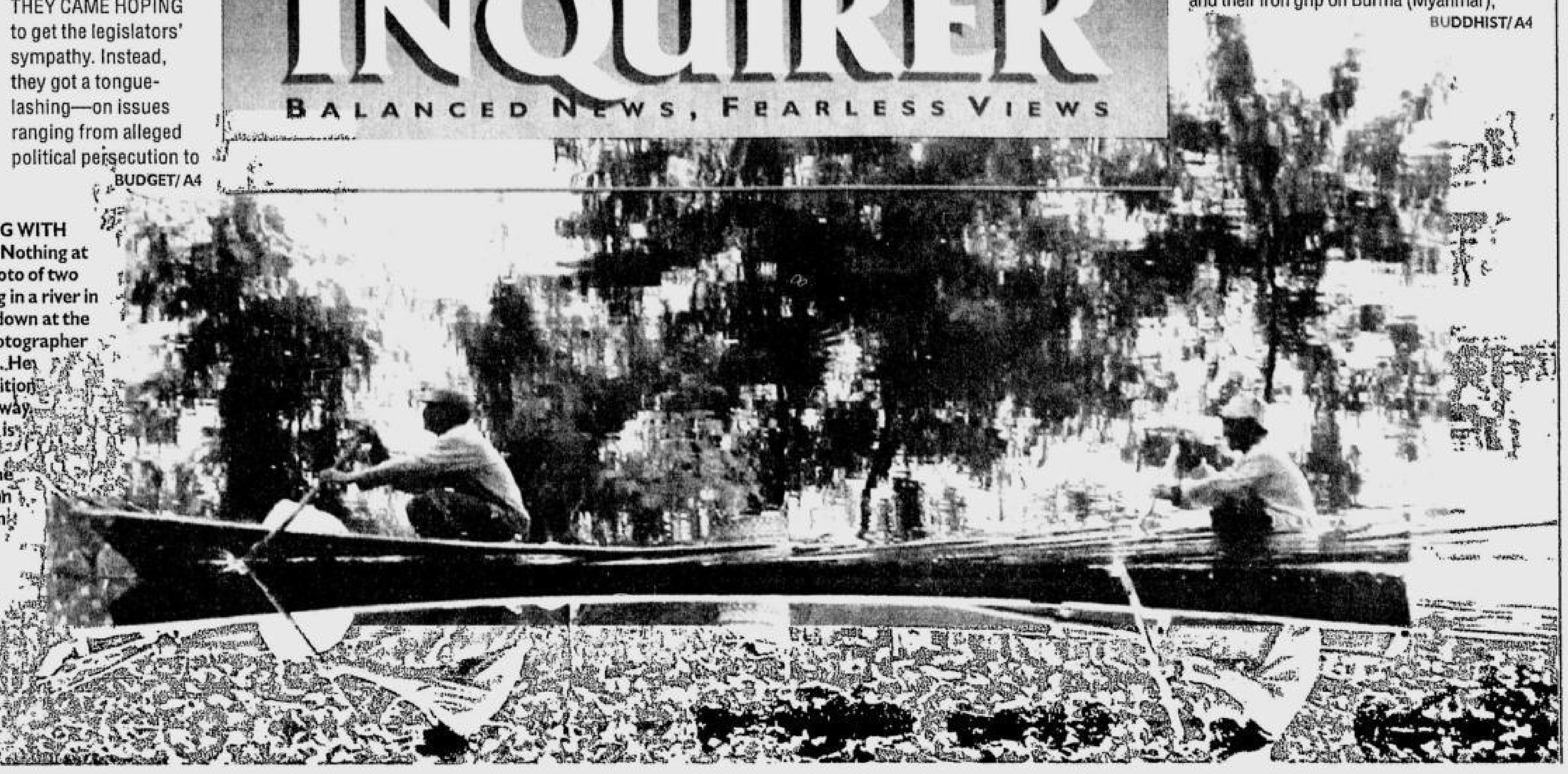
Budget hearings for AFP leftists' payback time

UM! NAKA-TIKIM KAYO!

By Christian Esguerra

THEY CAME HOPING to get the legislators' sympathy. Instead, they got a tongue-lashing—on issues ranging from alleged political persecution to

BUDGET/ A4



WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? Nothing at all even if this photo of two fishermen rowing in a river in Taguig is upside down at the request of its photographer Edwin Bacasmas. He likes the composition a lot better that way. Besides, nothing is lost in the transference. One is a true reflection of the other. Turn the picture around and see for yourself.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Neri: No turning back

But wary his testimony could lead to another Edsa

By Kristine L. Alave

ROMULO NERI YESTERDAY said he was "prepared for the outcome" of his testimony today in the Senate, which is investigating the controversial $329-million contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

Neri, chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd), said that President Macapagal-Arroyo may have to reconsider his trustworthiness after his Senate appearance, but that he was prepared for such a scenario.

"It is a possibility that I would be replaced," he said.

Neri declined to give details of what he planned to say to the senators, but mentioned the forces that make the Philippines an "oligarch state."

He was wary that his testimony would compel people to take to the streets, saying a change in the government leadership is not the key to reforms.

Another Edsa people power will

NERI/ A8

GMA sets up special panel for China deals

By Michael Lim Ubac

HEEDING THE PUBLIC CLAMOR FOR transparency, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday created a special panel to "oversee projects" under the China official development assistance program.

In an address to the Pro-Performance and Transparency Group in Malacañang, the President announced that she had designated Trade Secretary Peter Favila as head of the "China projects oversight panel" and "overall coordinator of our framework agreement with China."

She named as panel members Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, Presidential Management Staff head Cerge

GMA SETS UP/ A8

RUDY SANCHEZ/CONTRIBUTOR

NO DEAL: Within the splendid environs of the country estate of the convicted former President, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno lays out the preliminaries for his "unconditional pardon." They have not come to any definite agreement.

GMA's own probe finds no bribery

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO had the National Broadband Network (NBN) project "discreetly investigated" and found reports of bribery were unsubstantiated.

"When we learned of an alleged bribery attempt in connection with the broadband projects, we instructed that the matter be discreetly investigated," Ms Arroyo told a meeting of the Pro-Performance and Transparency Group in the Palace.

Allegations that the deal was overpriced to allow for kickbacks to senior government officials and that the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, and Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. were linked to the contract were aired in a Senate inquiry last week.

But she said the investigation found that the reports of bribery tainting the NBN deal between the government and China's ZTE Corp. were "uncor-

GMA CONDUCTS/ A8

Bishop 'Soc' kicked out Doble, Ong from seminary

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

BISHOP SOCRATES VILLEGAS AND other bishops sent by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales kicked out from Church sanctuary two whistle-blowers of the "Hello Garci" tapes at the height of the electoral fraud scandal in June 2005.

Seven persons, including ex-Sen. Sergio Osmeña III and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, told a Senate hearing yesterday that the Catholic Church hierarchy told lawyer Samuel Ong and former military intelligence agent Vidal Doble Jr. to leave the San Carlos Seminary premises.

The Church directive came hours after Ong, a former deputy director of the National Bureau of Investigation, announced on June 10, 2005, that he had the "mother of all tapes" and that his life was in danger because of his exposé.

The tapes purportedly contained conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano during the canvassing of votes cast in

BISHOP / A6

ROGER MARGALLO

WOMAN'S WRATH: Arlene Doble, Vidal's estranged wife, pours out her heartaches.

No deal yet on pardon; Erap keeps options open

By Volt Contreras and Alcuin Papa

JOSEPH ESTRADA YESTERDAY DEferred action on a proposed presidential pardon and said he was still exploring legal remedies following his conviction on plunder charges, according to Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno.

But the ousted President told the INQUIRER he had no qualms about the government seizing some P1 billion in assets he was convicted of amassing.

"Go ahead, they can have it all. They are not mine anyway," Estrada said on the phone after he and Puno, Malacañang's emissary, held their first round of talks on the proposed presidential pardon.

Estrada said the talks with Puno merely laid down the "preliminaries" and that a follow-up meeting between their respective lawyers had been set

NO DEAL/ A6

SC okays writ of amparo rules; effective Oct. 24

By Leila B. Salaverria

MAKING GOOD ON ITS AVOWED INtention to harness its powers to protect civil liberties, the Supreme Court has issued unprecedented rules that would allow citizens to seek from the courts protection from or redress for extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances.

The rules for the writ of amparo—approved yesterday by the high court en banc and scheduled to take effect on the United Nations' 62nd anniversary on Oct. 24—will remove from the authorities the defense of denial, oblige them to take action to solve such killings and disappearances, and hold them accountable.

"Today, the Supreme Court promulgated the rule that will place the constitutional right to life, liberty and security above violation and threats of violation. This rule will provide the victims of extralegal killings and enforced disappearances the protection they need and the promise of vindication for their rights,"

SC OKAYS/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Palawan, the western section of Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

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MJ 'forgives' Nani, others

PNP on high alert as GMA leaves

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE went on heightened alert nationwide as President Macapagal-Arroyo left the country last night for a United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York.

A heightened alert means half of the the 125,000-strong PNP will stay at their posts at all times.

The PNP usually raises its alert level when the President leaves the country.

The President arrives in New York today for a three-day visit, the highlight of which will be a country report to the United Nations General Assembly.

Expected to arrive at 6 a.m., the President will have only a couple of hours' rest before going to the Clinton Global Initiative Forum of global leaders to brainstorm solutions to various world issues like climate change, poverty alleviation, health and education.

After the forum, Ms Arroyo is scheduled to meet with executives of the Millenium Challenge Corp. at the Waldorf Astoria hotel, followed by a lunch hosted by Kenneth Tuchman, chair and CEO of Teletech.

In the afternoon, Ms Arroyo will watch the matinee performance of the Broadway show "Les Miserables," starring Filipino singer Lea Salonga as the tragic character Fantine.

The President will end her first day in New York with coffee with members of the Filipino community.

Day two of the President's will begin with media interviews, including one with the New York Times, after which Ms Arroyo will attend a luncheon roundtable discussion with the US-Asean Business Council.

The rest of day will see her receiving top US business executives. The list of callers include: Meryl Lynch executives; James Livesay, senior vice president divisional executive retail bank operations of Washington Mutual; Satendra Gupta, chair and CEO of USTGlobal Inc.; and executives of JP Morgan.

Ms Arroyo's last working day in New York begins with a meeting of the Women Leaders' Working Group.

She will then address the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly, the highlight of her visit. She will be the third speaker.

A meeting with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is scheduled after the speech, followed by a chat with Filipinos employed in the UN. She will also drop in at the book launching of the Inter-faith Dialog.

A luncheon hosted by Morgan Stanley ends her official visit.

The President is expected to arrive in Manila shortly before midnight of Sept. 28. *Alcuin Papa and Christine O Avendaño*

By Leila B. Salaverria

FORMER MANILA REP. MARK Jimenez is suffused with the "energy" of forgiveness.

Jimenez yesterday told reporters at the Department of Justice that he would withdraw the extortion case he had filed against former Justice Secretary Hernando "Nani" Perez in connection with the $470-million contract won by an Argentine firm to rehabilitate a power plant in Laguna.

He said he would also order the withdrawal of the cases he had filed against his own children and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

"And these are unconditional. I have not talked to anybody, [or] seen anybody. I want to do this because I just want to proceed with what I love right now, which is Hulog ng Langit," Jimenez said, referring to the foundation he had put up to give aid to and sponsor religious activities for the poor.

"In fact, I should have forgiven them earlier. It's not a question anymore of a judgment. I think forgiveness is a spirit, an energy," he said.

Jimenez was at the DOJ to submit a counteraffidavit to the complaint of kidnapping, serious illegal detention and grave coercion filed by his former partner Caroline Castañeda, who had accused him of detaining her at a rehabilitation facility owned by his niece.

He was accompanied by his lawyers Frank Chavez and Buenaventura Miranda. Chavez later said he was not handling the case against Perez, and would have to see what needed to be done.

Jimenez said he was not interested in pursuing the case against Perez—which he described as a "rigid legal process"—because he wanted to forgive.

"The point is, there's such a thing as realizing in your life that there are graces [from] God. If He can forgive, why not us?" said the ex-lawmaker who returned to the Philippines in December 2005 after doing time in a US prison for making illegal contributions to the Democratic Party.

As for the case against Gonzalez, whom he had accused of abuse of discretion, Jimenez said he was withdrawing it in the spirit of "peace, serenity and hope."

Both Christians

The case stemmed from Gonzalez's supposed order transferring to the DOJ the preliminary investigation of the estafa case that Jimenez had filed against his children.

Jimenez aired praise for the justice secretary, who is recovering from a kidney transplant.

"I believe Secretary Gonzalez has served this country proper and right. Whatever happened to us is his opinion and my opinion. At the end of the day, we're both still Christians," he said.

Jimenez said his decision to withdraw the estafa case against his children—for supposedly selling his shares in a telecommunications firm and pieces of real estate without his knowledge—was his "passport to heaven."

"This is unconditional. I don't want to interfere or even influence their decision. And I will not run for president," he said.

He also said what the Philippines needed was forgiveness, but that he did not want it to seem only he was right.

"What is important is, it was done. It's not even forgiveness, because forgiveness means I'm right. It doesn't mean I am right or they are wrong. I just don't want to live that kind of life," he said.

WHAT'S INSIDE

JDV OUSTER AN ethical issue, says foe /A5

COMELEC EXECS too busy for budget hearing /A5

WHAT WENT BEFORE

EARLY IN NOVEMBER 2002, THEN Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama said a Cabinet member had received $2 million from a crony of ousted President Joseph Estrada in exchange for the approval of a contract with the Argentine firm Industrias Metalurgicas Pescarmona C. A. (Impsa).

Sen. Panfilo Lacson later named the Cabinet member as then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez. Lacson said $14 million, not $2 million, had been deposited in a Hong Kong account of the so-called "million-dollar man."

In a privilege speech on Nov. 25, 2002, then Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez said Perez extorted $2 million from him in 2001.

Two days later, Perez took a leave of absence. He quit his post in January 2003.

Jimenez later said he coughed up the money after Perez threatened him at his Forbes Park home in January 2001.

He said the threat was made in response to his refusal to make a sworn statement against Estrada cronies.

Jimenez also said Lacson had made up the story about the alleged $14-million payoff for the Impsa deal.

Documents presented by Jimenez to the Office of the Ombudsman showed that $2 million was wired in February 2001 to a Hong Kong account under the name of businessman Ernest Escaler. The money was later transferred to the Swiss accounts of Perez's wife Rosario and brother-in-law Ramon Arceo.

On Jan. 8, 2007, the Ombudsman recommended the filing of charges of graft, extortion and falsification of public documents against the Perezes, Arceo and Escaler. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

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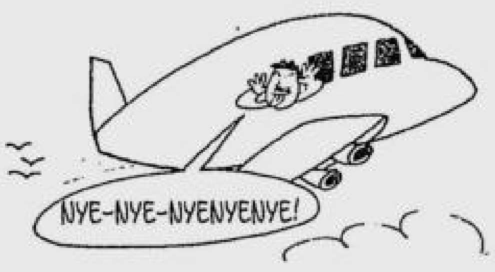
Here's what pardon could do

By Jocelyn R. Uy


NYE-NYE-NYENYENYE!

HERE'S PROOF THAT A PRESIDENTIAL pardon is boundless.

A private contractor convicted by the Sandiganbayan in 1998 of 27 counts of graft and sentenced to more than 200 years in prison has been granted a conditional pardon by Malacañang and he didn't even spend a single night in jail.

Court records at the Sandiganbayan showed that businessman Jaime Ponce De Leon was found guilty of defrauding the government of over P627,000 in ghost projects in Bais City along with eight officials of the Ministry of Public Highways in December 1998.

The Sandiganbayan decision was upheld by the Supreme Court in 1999. But Ponce de Leon did not submit himself for final commitment to the New Bilibid Prison until after eight years or on April 12 this year.

In a manifestation dated March 5, Ponce de Leon informed the Third Division, where he was convicted in 13 of the 27 cases, that he was voluntarily submitting himself to the court to serve his sentence. He appeared before the Sandiganbayan a month later.

The Sandiganbayan Sheriff's Office reported that upon the orders of the antigraft court, Ponce de Leon was brought immediately to the New Bilibid Prison, where a conditional pardon signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had been waiting for him.

A copy of the conditional pardon showed that Ponce de Leon was absolved of 27 counts of violation of the Anti-graft and Corrupt Practices Act, as well as his sentence of four to eight years in prison for each count of graft (a jail term ranging from 108 to 216 years).

His certificate of discharge from prison was signed by NBP Supt. Juanito Leopando and the chief of the prison's separation center, Manolo Belen.

However, Ponce de Leon's lawyer, Mikhail Lee Maxino, has a different version of the story.

Maxino told the INQUIRER that Ponce de Leon was a provincial board member of Negros Oriental at the time of his conviction.

Maxino said his client had fled the country for the United States while the case was on appeal.

He said Ponce de Leon was living in Los Angeles, California, when he applied for a presidential pardon two years ago.

Maxino said he didn't get to see the approved pardon but Ponce De Leon informed him that he had been granted the pardon.

Ponce de Leon's son Dinno told the INQUIRER that the pardon was granted in May this year. *With a report from Alex Pal, Inquirer Visayas*

Miriam defends SC justice

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.
and Leila B. Salaverria

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO yesterday came to the defense of Supreme Court Justice Consuelo Ynares Santiago, who is being implicated in a payoff scandal, and accused another member of the high court of orchestrating the smear campaign against her sorority sister.

The feisty Senator said Justice Santiago—not a relative of hers but a colleague in the University of the Philippines' Women Lawyers Circle (WILOCI)—was being set up, possibly to force her to inhibit herself from a multi-billion peso land case that is pending in the high court.

The court met en banc yesterday to investigate media reports that insinuated Justice Santiago received a gift-wrapped box containing P10 million and linked the incident to the hotly-contested Maysilo-Araneta University land case in Quezon City. A resolution on the matter will be issued today, a court spokesperson said.

Justice Santiago earlier penned a decision affirming a Court of Appeals ruling awarding ownership of the contested 34-hectare prime property to the heirs of a certain Homer Barque over other powerful claimants. The case was later reopened. Both sides are represented by big law firms.

It's Thank You Day in Manila on Oct. 20

THE CITY OF MANILA AND A SWISS brand of chocolate have teamed up to promote courteousness among Filipinos.

In a July 2006 Reader's Digest informal survey on courteousness, Manila got a score of 48 percent, the same as the citizens of Helsinki in Finland. New York topped the list with 80 percent while Mumbai in India was at the bottom with 35 percent.

The Reader's Digest tested people in major cities if they would help a stranger who accidentally dropped a stack of papers, or who needed help opening the door, or how often they would say thank you to a customer after a transaction.

In a statement, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim said the city council declared Oct. 20 as Thank You Day, the first city in the country to do so.

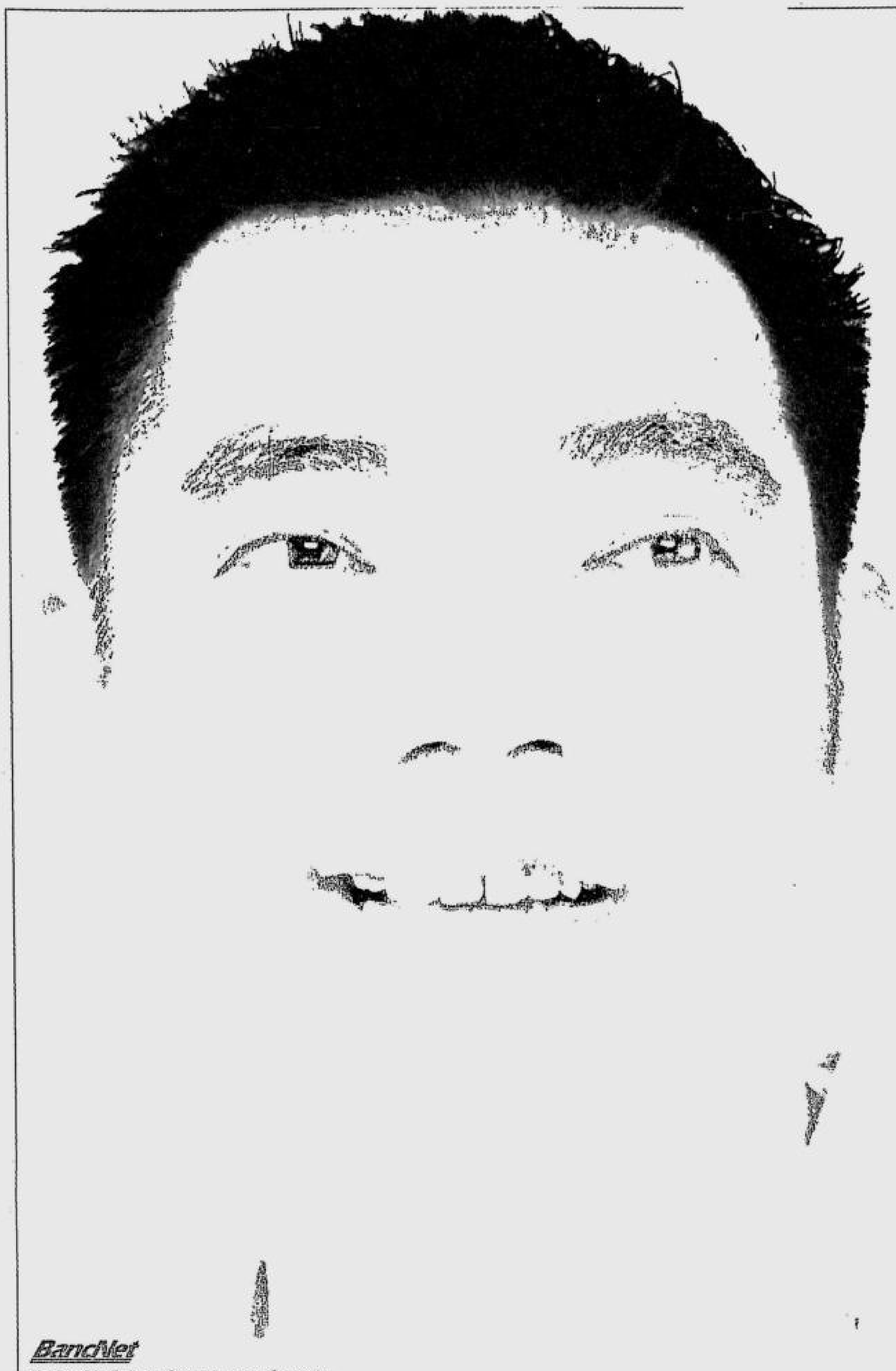
Lim said it was sad that, for a city known for its warmth, its citizens were showing less gratitude.

"We took up this campaign because of the survey where Manila ranked 21 out of 35 cities," said Kraft brand manager Gerald Blanco during the campaign launch yesterday at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. "We hope this would become a nationwide effort."

Jesus G. Syjuco, Kraft marketing manager for Toblerone, said: "Thank You Day is a reminder for everyone to show common courtesy and appreciation for others."

According to Dr. Ed Tolentino, a psychiatrist of the Makati Medical Center, "When you feel appreciated, you feel loved. When you feel loved, you feel happy, which results in good health."

Ronnel W. Domingo



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Abalos: Hear my side first

By Christian V. Esguerra

ON THE EVE OF HIS APPEARANCE AT THE Senate, embattled Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday asked the senators and the public to withhold judgment on the broadband scandal until they had heard all sides.

Abalos skipped the House hearing on the Comelec's 2008 budget yesterday ostensibly to prepare for his testimony before the joint senate committees probing the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal.

He said he was preparing a "short, direct-to-the-point" opening statement that would answer every issue hurled against him by whistle-blower Jose "Joey" de Venecia III.

De Venecia, owner of Amsterdam Holding Inc., accused Abalos of brokering for China's ZTE Corp., the company that eventually cornered the lucrative deal.

"I'm the one writing my opening statement," he told the INQUIRER. "I'm using Tagalog so more people will understand it. I just hope that senators and the public will withhold their judgment until after they've heard everything."

Buddhist monks lead ...

From page A1

some 30,000 monks dressed in saffron and red robes, followed by about 70,000 supporters, marched out for their eighth day of peaceful protest from the soaring Shwedagon Pagoda of Rangoon (Yangon).

The monks prayed and chanted, many holding colorful religious banners and images of Buddha which they have carried at the front of the historic processions winding through Rangoon for the last week. Again, the demonstrators surrounded the Sule Pagoda and nearby City Hall.

About 700 monks staged a similar show of defiance in the country's second largest city of Mandalay.

State media on Tuesday bluntly ordered the monks to stay clear of politics, reinforcing government threats of a crackdown carried on state television. Despite the warnings, no security forces were visible on the streets of Burma's largest city.

Thousands of people linked hands to form a human chain around the monks, while many more bystanders thronged to the sidewalks to clap and cheer, offering water to the demonstrators under the blazing tropical sun.

Struggle for democracy

"National reconciliation is very important for us. People and monks are gathering here, and the monks are standing up for the people," famed poet Aung Way said in a speech to the crowd delivered through a small microphone.

Some of the monks held small banners that read: "Sufficiency in food, clothing and shelter, national reconciliation, freedom for all political prisoners."

Others chanted "We want dialogue" or carried banners reading: "May people's desires be fulfilled."

"The protest is not merely for the well-being of people but also for monks struggling for democracy and for people to have an opportunity to determine their own future," one monk told The Associated Press. "People do not tolerate the military government any longer."

Large contingents of students joined Tuesday's march, carrying the red flags emblazoned with yellow peacocks that symbolize the National League for Democracy of detained democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Junta warnings

Clearly alarmed by two days of mass gatherings, including a crowd of 100,000 who took to the streets on Monday, government officials drove through central Rangoon using loudspeakers to warn against new protests.

"We have no fear at all," said one young protester. "This is the only thing we can do. We will continue to act according to Buddhist teachings in this protest."

State media said protests had taken place in seven of the 14 provinces, and accused foreign media of instigating the marches, which have swelled into a nationwide movement against the military's four decades of hardline rule.

The BBC and exiled groups reported that monks and their supporters had rallied right across the impoverished nation, as far as the western border with Bangladesh.

China calls for stability

China, one of the military regime's closest allies, called for stability but said it would stick to its policy of noninterference.

"As a friendly neighboring country of Myanmar, China hopes to see stability and economic development in Myanmar," a foreign ministry spokesperson said in Beijing.

This week's protests in Rangoon are the biggest public show of dissent since student-led rallies in 1988 were brutally repressed.

The clergy's revered status has made them rallying figures for public anger, which first erupted more than one month ago after a crippling hike in fuel prices.

Analysts believe Burma's junta has held back so far for fear that any violence against monks in this devoutly Buddhist nation would spark a huge outcry.

The junta's warnings of a crackdown came as world leaders were expected to use the annual debate at the UN General Assembly, which opens on Tuesday, to urge restraint and push for democratic reforms.

Toward regime change

The White House said US President George W. Bush would use his speech at the UN assembly to announce new US measures targeting key regime figures as well as financial measures.

US National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley said Bush would call on other countries to join in a campaign "to try and force the regime into a change."

Reaction to the startling scenes poured in from around the world, with many foreign governments urging the junta to show restraint.

Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu characterized the mass protests as an echo of the campaign against apartheid in South Africa. He said the protesters would inevitably topple the generals from power. *Reports from AFP and AP*

Budget hearings for AFP ...

From page A1

unpaid electric bills.

On the firing end were the militant lawmakers collectively known as the "Batasan 6," and a party-list congressman representing the country's electric cooperatives.

On the receiving end were National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and Armed Forces generals, dressed in neatly pressed military uniforms, who came to defend their proposed 2008 budgets.

The militant leftist lawmakers finally got a much-anticipated face-off with Gonzales.

Representatives Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna and Liza Maza of Gabriela took Gonzales to task for the "political persecution" they experienced under the Arroyo administration.

"What assurance do we have that no spurious charges against us would be repeated?" Ocampo asked Gonzales point-blank.

Gonzales led government attempts last year to nail the militant lawmakers on rebellion charges, only to see the Supreme Court throw the cases out.

'Guilty until proven innocent'

Maza threatened to have the discussions on Gonzales' budget deferred because Gonzales purportedly presumed that militant party-list groups were "guilty until proven innocent."

"It was this kind of reasoning that persecuted us!" Maza said.

Gonzales admitted pushing for the cases but said he did so to let the court settle issues like whether Bayan Muna and its affiliate groups were communist fronts.

Where battle should be

He said his office was gathering more information, prior to bringing the matter again before the courts.

"That's where the debate should be ... rather than we shoot each other or shout at each other in the media," Gonzales said.

Led by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, the military officers got a dressing down from another lawmaker over the military's purported failure to settle P48 million in electric bills.

"It's shameful! You're given billions and billions of pesos yet you can't even settle your electric bills!" an angry Rep. Edgar Valdez told them.

P200-M in unpaid bills

Valdez, of the party-list group Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives, said the amount was part of an estimated P200 million the entire government bureaucracy owed electric cooperatives.

He said the Philippine National Police also had a standing balance of P8 million.

"(The issue) is not even legal—it's moral that you pay your dues!" he said.

Valdez also said: "I suppose you pay your Meralco bills?"

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro explained the military did not have enough flexibility in its allocation for "maintenance and other operating expenses" (MOOE) to more effectively settle its dues.

Security reasons

"There are two immediate solutions here," Teodoro said. "First, give us more comfort in the MOOE portion (of the budget) and, second, capital outlay, so we can make a direct collection as far as big camps are concerned."

Valdez lamented that electric cooperatives were not allowed to disconnect the power to military camps for national security reasons.

He cited a case where power was to be disconnected at a camp in Zamboanga, "but the general there said it was the only camp connected to Malacañang—and they were pursuing the Sayyaf."

Funds delayed

Philippine Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres told reporters the service command's failure to pay its electricity bills was due to the delay in the release of funds.

"The funds have to be programmed," he said.

The Army said it paid a total of P256 million in electric bills in 2006, including one previously unpaid bill. *With a report from Nikko Dizon*

JDV ouster an ethical issue, says foe

By Norman Bordadora

THE ETHICS CASE FILED AGAINST HIM, not his son's testimony in the Senate against President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, may cost Speaker Jose de Venecia the leadership of the House of Representatives.

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte said in a privilege speech yesterday "there is no way to oust the Speaker if the reason is that his son testified in the Senate."

"But there is another side of the coin. It's for violation of the antigraft law, the conflict of interest provision in the Constitution and the Code of Conduct (and Ethical Standards for Government Officials and Employees) that the Speaker may [be ousted]," Villafuerte said.

Villafuerte was referring to the complaint filed against De Venecia by lawyer Ruel Pulido with the House ethics committee last week for not stopping his son, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, from vying for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project with a Chinese company despite his being closely related to the Speaker.

"That is what he should be worried about," Villafuerte said.

Villafuerte, who is fast emerging as a leading adversary of the Speaker, denied initiating an oust-De Venecia move in the House after the Speaker's son testified at a Senate hearing that Jose Miguel Arroyo had ordered him to "back off" the $329-million NBN deal with China's ZTE Corp.

The Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act prohibits close relatives of the President, Vice President, Senate President and Speaker from participating in government contracts.

Pulido said De Venecia knew that Amsterdam Holdings Inc., his son's firm, was vying for the NBN project and that Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. was lobbying for ZTE Corp., a rival company, to bag the same contract.

"I have nothing to do with (Pulido's) complaint. But if he (De Venecia) will blame me for it, I will actively pursue the complaint," Villafuerte said.

But Senior Deputy Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said the ethics committee might not be able to hear Pulido's complaint since the allegation that De Venecia, his son and Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza had met to discuss the NBN deal occurred before the current 14th Congress was convened.

"The committee on ethics has no jurisdiction because the incident happened before the present Congress. The committee only has jurisdiction over acts committed during the 14th Congress," Gonzales said.

Gonzales was referring to Rule 1, Section 2 of the Rules of the 13th Congress, which was adopted by previous congresses and is expected to be adopted by the current one.

He said the rule also applied to Pulido's allegation that De Venecia was liable for conflict of interest in 1995 when Congress passed a law granting the younger De Venecia's Multimedia Telephony Inc. a legislative franchise for radio paging.

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Comelec execs too busy for budget hearing

ALL SIX ELECTION COMMISSIONERS WHO failed to attend Tuesday's budget hearing at the House of Representatives were prepared to defend the agency's outlay for 2008 but, unfortunately, were all "out on official business" that day, the Commission on Elections said.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez told reporters the commissioners were attending to other matters like the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections scheduled for October.

"*Nagkataon lang na nagkaroon ng di magandang pagkapatong-patong ng mga* commitments (It just so happened they had an inordinately high number of prior commitments)," Jimenez said.

Comelec Chair Benjamin S. Abalos Sr. and Commissioners Resurrecion Z. Borra, Florentino A. Tuason, Romeo A. Brawner, Rene V. Sarmiento and Nicodemo T. Ferrer failed to attend the budget hearing.

Only Comelec executive director Pio Jose Joson came to represent the poll body, and then only to request that the hearing be postponed.

Jimenez said Borra was in France representing the Comelec at a conference of the Association of Central European Election Authorities. He is also in charge of the coming barangay and SK elections.

Jimenez said Ferrer was swamped with requests for exemptions from the election gun ban, which is due to start on Sept. 29. Ferrer is in charge of reviewing the exemption requests.

Sarmiento, on the other hand, had an urgent meeting in Ilocos.

Abalos and Brawner were out "on official business." But Abalos was said to be preparing for his testimony at the Senate today on the National Broadband Network (NBN) controversy in which he has been implicated. *(See story on Page 1.)*

Tuason is recovering from an illness after he was hospitalized a few days ago. *Beverly T. Natividad*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, September 26, 2007
25th Week in Ordinary Time
Cosmas and Damian

1st Reading: Ezra 9:5-9
Gospel: Luke 9:1-6

Jesus called his twelve disciples and gave them power and authority to drive out all evil spirits and to heal diseases. And he sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. He instructed them, "Don't take anything for the journey, neither walking stick, nor bag, nor bread, nor silver coins; and don't even take a spare tunic. Whatever house you enter, remain there until you leave that place. And wherever they don't welcome you, leave the town and shake the dust from your feet: it will be as a testimony against them."

So they set out and went through the villages, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.

Commentary

Ezra prays to God, afraid to raise his face because of the peoples' injustice and sin, even after they have been punished, exiled, put in captivity. They have been given mercy and the remnant was allowed to return. They have been given relief in their servitude but they are still slaves in their own land—the people, priests, leaders, all continue to do what is wicked.

Jesus' mission sends forth his followers with the power and authority to heal and to overcome demons (evil and all that hinders individuals and groups from living truly human lives—addictions, bad habits, vices, etc.). They must travel in the power of the Spirit like/with Jesus: no walking staff (used to protect), no traveling bag, no bread and money! They are to be a community that relies on the hospitality of those who are waiting to hear the good news, as a sign of the radical change in society for those who believe in God's kingdom where all are family in God. How can we do this today?

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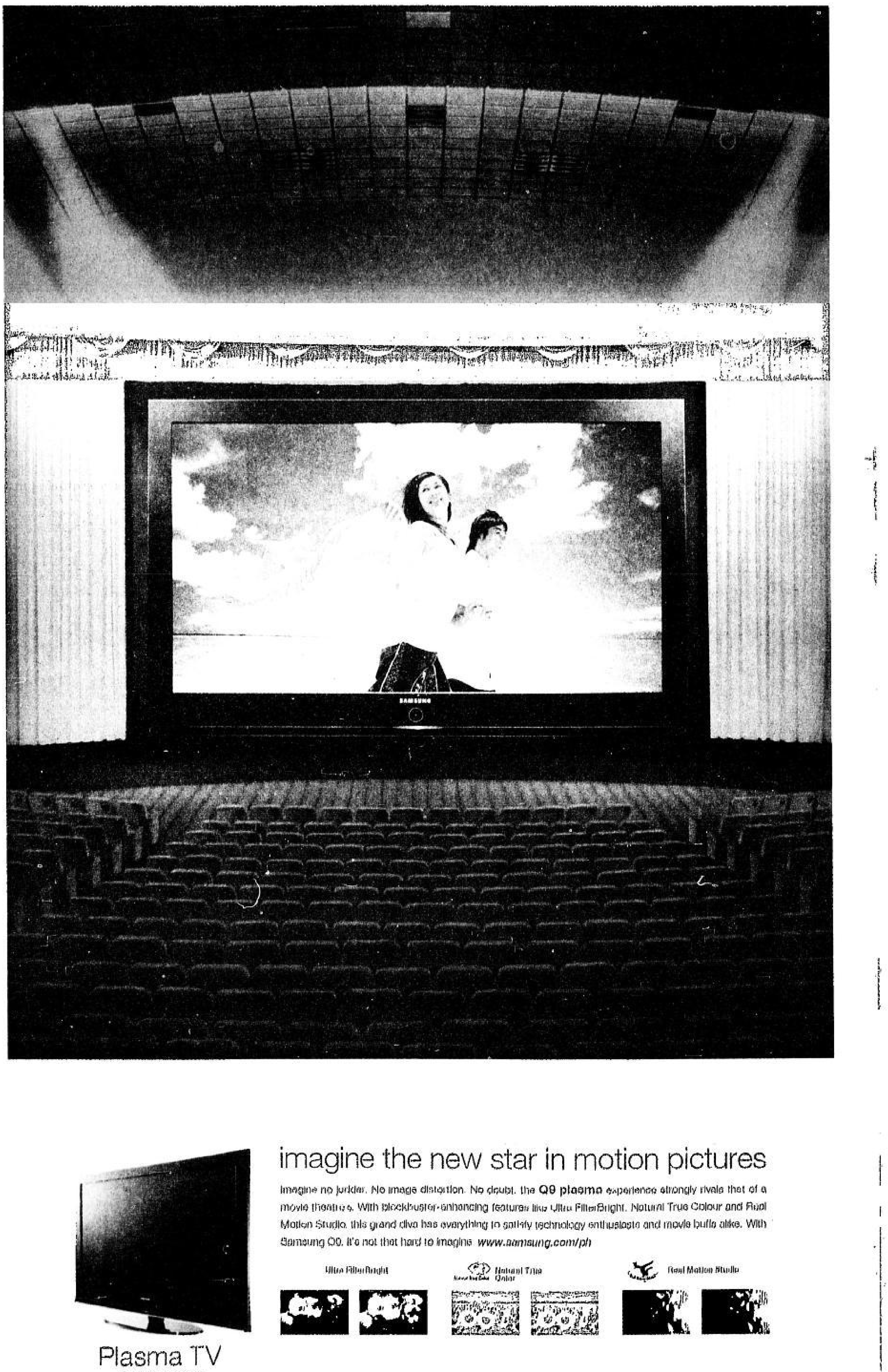
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Smart, Globe execs deny involvement in 'Hello Garci' case

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

OFFICIALS OF THE COUNTRY'S biggest cell phone providers—Smart and Globe Telecom—yesterday denied any involvement in the "Hello Garci" wiretapping operations that former military intelligence agent Vidal Doble Jr. said he conducted.

The officials said their companies had no technical equipment to bug specific clients.

But Rodolfo Salalima, Globe Telecom's senior vice president for corporate and regulatory affairs, conceded that with the fast pace of technology, there was no way his company could prevent wiretapping.

"There are instruments to even eavesdrop off the air, there are no limits to science. We cannot prevent wiretapping totally," Salalima said during the five-hour hearing. "It can be done even without the cooperation of carriers."

With no other witnesses to corroborate Doble's exposé on "Project: Lighthouse" of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile demanded the recall of the star witness.

Enrile said Doble should demonstrate in the next hearing how he wiretapped the conversation purportedly between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano at the height of the election canvassing in 2004.

Doble claimed that he was able to carry out the wiretapping with the help of an insider at Smart.

No breach of security

Smart public affairs chief Ramon Isberto said the company's internal investigation did not show any breach of security or wiretapping activities with the connivance of its personnel as alleged by Doble.

"Given the bits and pieces that have so far been revealed in the various hearings and statements from the persons concerned, we do not have information, we do not know how this could have taken place," Isberto said.

He said the company's findings had been submitted to the National Telecommunications Commission which he added was also satisfied with the firm's security precautions when the agency made a company visit.

On Globe's part, Salalima stressed that Doble never mentioned that Globe was involved in wiretapping because he only noted that his boss, Lt. Col. Pedro Sumayo Jr., and the project head, Capt. Fredrerick Rebong, had access to Globe.

Doble has testified that the Lighthouse operatives were given Nokia 3600 units to monitor the conversation of their targets, including the late Fernando Poe Jr., former Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor and Sen. Gringo Honasan.

Doble claimed that the conversations were recorded in the unit's SIM (Subscriber Identity Module) and downloaded to a computer.

CEOs presence demanded

Failing to get anything from their corporate guests aside from denials, senators asked that the chief executive officers of Smart and Globe be summoned to the hearing to personally give their assurances on the security of their networks.

The hearing got tense at the tailend when Enrile noted that Doble has yet to establish how he actually wiretapped the President and Garcillano.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who made the privilege speech seeking the reopening of the Hello Garci probe with the new testimony of Doble, said it was just normal for Smart and Globe to deny the wiretapping allegations just as it was normal for Doble's superiors and colleagues to be wary of attending the hearing to bolster Doble's claim.

"The question is: Has it been done? There is a difference between it could be done and the fact that it has been done. I can speculate to go to Mars but whether I can go to Mars is something else. We are trying to establish facts not speculation and not just because one senator said it could be done," Enrile said.

To which Lacson replied: "I am not forcing you to believe me."

Sen. Richard Gordon said that the hearings had so far shown that Doble did not have anyone to corroborate his tale of wiretapping either from Smart or Globe or from his team.

Salalima said that Globe itself had objected to being dragged to the hearing because "we are being asked based solely on the statement of Doble."

Bishop 'Soc' kicked out Doble, Ong from safety of seminary

From page A1

the 2004 presidential election. The opposition said the tapes re evidence of cheating. Ms royo has denied any wrong- ing.

Ong, Doble and his girlfriend larietta Santos took refuge at e Makati seminary from June 0 to 13, 2005.

Their accommodation was arranged by Bishop Teodoro Bacani.

Later, Ong said he got the tapes from Doble, a former member of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) who had earlier told the Senate that his unit had tapped the mobile phone conversations of the President and other political personalities during the 2004 poll campaign.

Osmeña and some of those who were inside the seminary at the time appeared at the Senate hearing to bolster Doble's earlier testimony that he had willingly accompanied Ong.

They included actor Rez Cortez, lawyer Luis Sison Jr., Don Remo, former Transportation Secretary Oscar Orbos and Ong's lawyer Felix Carao Jr.

They sought to disprove the government's claim that Doble had been detained against his will inside the seminary by Ong.

Deadline

Sison, an official of the Catholic lay group Jesus is Lord Movement, said Ong was given a deadline by the bishops to leave the seminary by 7 p.m. of June 13.

He said Ong pleaded for an extension of one hour since he had nowhere to go, but Villegas was adamant.

"That is how merciless and ruthless Bishop Villegas was at this point," Sison told the senators.

In yesterday's hearing, Arlene Doble, estranged wife of the ex-Isafp agent, contradicted Doble's claim that his family was kidnapped by the Isafp to force him to leave the San Carlos Seminary.

Arlene said Isafp men brought her and her two children from Kidapawan City to Manila, but denied they were kidnapped.

Summons ignored

Villegas, who brought Doble out of the San Carlos Seminary on June 13 and brought him to Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, has so far refused to appear despite repeated Senate invitations.

Ong has been in hiding all this time.

Doble, who has left Isafp, had told the Senate inquiry that he was forced to lie in the past about being Ong's source of the "Hello Garci" tapes since his family was being held by the Isafp.

In separate accounts, Osmeña, Binay, Cortez, Sison, Remo and Carao said Ong and Doble were in danger at the time, and that the Catholic Church leadership had denied them sanctuary.

They said they witnessed the discussions with the bishops.

Orbos said his participation was limited to the time on June 9, 2005, when he accompanied Cortez to see Bacani, who readily agreed to give Ong and Doble sanctuary at the seminary.

'Driven away'

Osmeña said on the night of June 10, Rosales sent four bishops, one of whom was a Bishop Cortes, to the San Carlos Seminary to tell Ong and Doble to leave. (The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines includes in its roster Auxiliary Bishop Julito B. Cortes of Cebu.)

"Bishop Cortes indicated to us that Archbishop Rosales was not in favor of them staying there any longer. Then we were told Bishop Socrates will fetch Doble, Mayette [Santos] and Ong will be asked to leave," said Ong's lawyer Felix Carao Jr.

"We were driven away. They said they didn't care if they were in danger," said Cortez.

He said Ong pleaded not to be left behind in the seminary.

"I thought the Church should give protection to anyone who wants to tell the truth and is in danger," Orbos said. "Nobody was being detained or forced to stay."

Remo said he was disgusted with the Church leadership's action that he vowed to stop being a Catholic.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. lectured Remo for blaming the Church for the alleged wrongdoing of one priest.

Sison said that on June 13, he was present at a discussion among Bacani, Bishop Cortes and Villegas, who had returned to the seminary after taking Doble to Camp Aguinaldo. He said Ong was told to leave by 7 p.m.

He said that at around 6:30 p.m., Ong asked Villegas and Bacani for an hour's extension since he had nowhere to go and he believed his life was in danger.

"Villegas looked at me coldly. He said, "Louie, are you trying to say you're not going to live by your agreement to leave by 7 p.m.? All of you will be out of this seminary by 7 p.m.," Sison quoted Villegas as telling him.

"That I believe was how merciless and ruthless Bishop Villegas was at that point," Sison added.

Doble wife laments hubby's double-dealings

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE ESTRANGED WIFE OF "Hello Garci" star witness ex-T/Sgt. Vidal Doble disclosed her heartaches before a Senate hearing telecast live yesterday on the illegal wiretapping scandal.

Arlene Doble said she refused to believe that Doble had lied before a previous congressional inquiry out of fear for the safety of his family who was reportedly taken by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

She said they have been estranged since 2001, or 10 years after they got married. She blamed this on Doble's womanizing.

Arlene said since she and her two children returned to Kidapawan City last year, Doble had not spoken to them.

Speaking in Filipino, she said that Doble had professed he loved her and his children but that he never cared for them and that she did not know why the family was being dragged into the case.

She admitted she resented that Doble only gave her P50,000 out of the P2 million he reportedly got from lawyer Samuel Ong for the "Hello Garci" tapes.

She also disclosed that Doble's support which comes from his payroll ATM only amounts to P2,000 to P5,000 a month.

But most of all, she said she resented that her husband never accepted one of their children who was a "special child."

No deal yet on pardon; Erap keeps options …

From page A1

for next week.

Asked if he could sense any sign that he could be released before Christmas, as Puno had previously averred, Estrada said "it's all in their (government's) hands."

Puno told reporters Estrada had apparently deferred accepting a pardon from the Arroyo administration.

He said that at the start of their meeting, Estrada informed him that his lawyers would be filing a motion for reconsideration of the Sandiganbayan decision.

"I told him that was fine and we would wait for the lawyers' MR. It seems he is leaving his options open to legal remedies," Puno said.

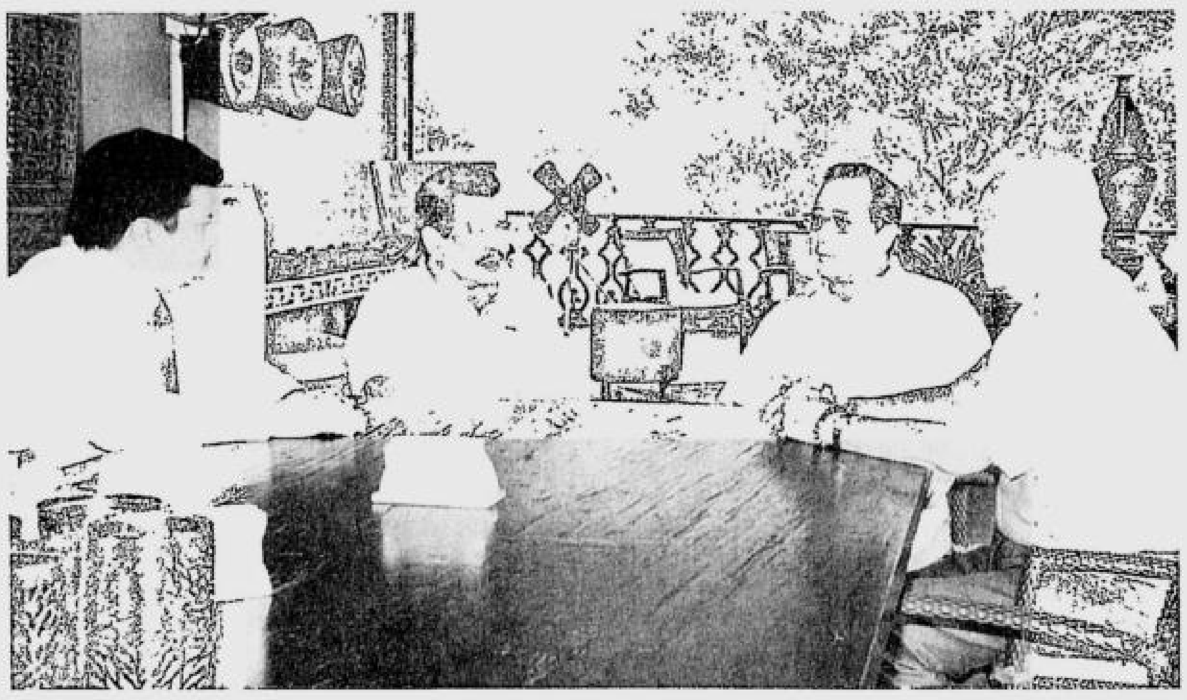
In the meantime, Estrada said his legal team would proceed with the filing of a motion for reconsideration, tentatively set for today, to challenge the guilty verdict handed down by the Sandiganbayan.

Estrada insisted he had "nothing to do" with the assets ordered confiscated by the antigraft court when it pronounced him guilty of plunder and sentenced him to up to 40 years in prison.

He was referring to the so-called "Boracay Mansion" in New Manila, Quezon City; P189 million in stock trading commissions that ended up in the 'Jose Velarde" bank account, and the P545 million in payoffs from "jueteng" (illegal numbers game), including the P200 million deposited in the name of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation.

Estrada maintained that the mansion and the Velarde account belonged to his associate, businessman Jaime Dichaves, one of his coaccused, who remains at large.

Up to the lawyers



TALKING HEADS: The ex-President and Interior Secretary Puno are flanked by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim at Estrada's Tanay resthouse. Highlight of the 45-minute meeting, which failed to produce any substantive results, had to be the sumptuous lunch spread out by Estrada, who's always such a fun and generous host.

RUDY SANCHEZ/CONTRIBUTOR

The abandoned property has fallen into disrepair and had no buyers when the Quezon City government put it up for auction.

Estrada said the P200 million which the court said came from jueteng belonged to the foundation. He said the rest of the P545 million was actually "pocketed" by Luis "Chavit" Singson, the estranged Estrada crony who turned state witness against him.

Estrada said he explained to Puno—also his interior secretary during his short-lived presidency—that he would only accept an "unconditional pardon" from President Macapagal-Arroyo or one that would entail "no admission of guilt."

"(Puno replied that) the matter will still be taken up by his lawyers," the ex-President said.

Talks at 'Maranao Village'

Yesterday's meeting took place at the so-called "Maranao Village," an enclave within the 15-ha Tanay estate where Estrada has built a pavilion and garden showcasing Filipino Muslim architecture.

The exchanges over lunch were "cordial," with jokes swapped, and took about 45 minutes, Estrada said.

Puno was accompanied by Assistant Interior Secretary Brian Yamsuan, while Estrada was flanked by his son, opposition Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim.

Written request

Estrada has up to Thursday to seek a reconsideration of the court's verdict.

"I doubt that, I don't think so," Puno said when asked if there was any indication that Estrada would write Ms Arroyo and ask for a pardon.

Puno said a written request was part of the pardon process "but he told me that he would not apply for a pardon with any conditions."

Puno said he told Estrada his lawyers could write the letter for him. "He just listened," Puno said.

He said the ex-President's wife, Luisa Ejercito-Estrada, was also at the meeting.

Sumptuous lunch

After a sumptuous lunch of lobster, *lapu-lapu*, *caldereta*, *lumpia* and crab *relleno*, Puno said he brought up the issue of the forfeiture of assets but Estrada denied owning the Boracay mansion and the P200 million in the Erap foundation.

"From what I know, a pardon does not extinguish civil liabilities. But he did not want to talk about the assets. He wasn't too keen on talking about that," Puno said.

He added: "And I'm not sure the government will be happy in foregoing the forfeiture (of the assets). There is some concern about that but everything has not been considered. We are not there yet."

Puno seemed to contradict his own remarks the other day that, in his view, an absolute pardon for Estrada would mean "the penalties are vacated."

Puno said Estrada sounded light-hearted (*maluwag ang loob*) during their talk and "the anger (at the verdict) is gone a little."

"I am convinced that a favorable conclusion is not far," he said, adding that he was keeping in mind the "legal exigencies" of a pardon while making sure "it doesn't offend any sector."

Saguisag wary

Puno said he was still looking at a "before Christmas" target for Estrada's release but admitted that would be hard if his lawyers elevated an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Estrada's lead counsel, Rene Saguisag, said the lawyers were now more concerned about meeting the Thursday deadline for the filing of a motion for reconsideration.

He said it was still preferable to push through with the petition than be "at the mercy of the administration by Friday."

"I don't trust these guys, save for a few well-meaning intermediaries. *Mahirap na, baka magoyo kami* (It's tough, we might be tricked)," Saguisag told the INQUIRER.

'Risk of winning'

Saguisag said that he did not want to pass up an opportunity where there was "a risk of winning" but added that such a "delicate" matter could not be resolved in just one sitting.

"The [meeting yesterday] is just one step in a journey of a thousand miles. All of it are just exploratory," he said.

Senator Estrada remained optimistic a pardon could be worked out soon even if filing a motion for reconsideration would delay it, adding that they could withdraw the MR at anytime.

"That is one option," he said.

With reports from Jocelyn R. Uy and Dona Pazzibugan

Anticrime group warns of 'civil disorder' if Erap is pardoned

By Fe Zamora

AN ANTICRIME AND CORruption group yesterday warned of "civil disorder" that could lead to "another people power" if President Macapagal-Arroyo insisted on granting an absolute pardon to convicted plunderer Joseph Estrada.

"President Arroyo should think not only twice but a thousand times … She should think about the silent majority," Dante Jimenez, president of Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), said in a telephone interview.

Jimenez said giving Estrada an absolute pardon and allowing him to keep P1-billion in ill-gotten assets would "agitate the silent majority and even the military."

"Malacañang is playing with fire. This is a catastrophe. This could lead to people power," Jimenez said.

The VACC was among the first nongovernment organizations to file a plunder complaint against Estrada following his ouster through "people power" in January 2001.

Jpepa a far bigger threat, says coalition

THE THREAT POSED by the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) is far bigger than the expected health hazard from the alleged dumping of Japanese toxic wastes.

The Jpepa will also affect ordinary Filipinos, said the Magkaisa Junk Jpepa Coalition in a series of briefing papers on the Jpepa's alleged ill effects on fishermen, farmers, workers, migrants, the right to health and due process.

The Jpepa, which President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi signed in Helsinki in September 2006, has been billed as a "new age" free trade agreement that will open unparalleled Japanese market access and investment for the Philippines.

However, the agreement, which has been submitted for ratification by the Senate, ran into controversy early on when environmentalists claimed that certain tariff-liberalizing provisions would open the way for the export of Japanese hazardous and toxic wastes to the Philippines.

Magkaisa now claims that the ill effects of the proposed trade agreement will be far wider than earlier supposed.

Labor will be on the endangered list as Philippine commitments under the Jpepa will endanger the country's domestic agricultural and industrial products, said Josua Mata of the Alliance of Progressive Labor, a member of the coalition.

"The free entry of low-cost products from Japan will result in the dependence of our agricultural and industrial sector on imported goods," Mata claimed.

The elimination of tariffs on almost all products will put the country's own industries at risk of closure which may result in massive unemployment, he said.

Mata said the proposed agreement clearly favored Japanese products. Local garments, appliances, automobile and auto parts stand to lose if Jpepa comes into force.

The Philippines has committed to eliminate all tariffs on agricultural and industrial goods except for rice and some rice products and salt.

Japan, the coalition pointed out, has exempted 202 agricultural products from tariff elimination. It was able to exempt 32 of its industrial products from tariff elimination and many were given gradual tariff schedules.

The Philippines has six tariff lines for exemption.

Dr. Aurora Parong of the Medical Action Group, another member of the coalition, said Jpepa will encourage the outmigration of Filipino health workers. *Ma. Ceres P. Doyo*

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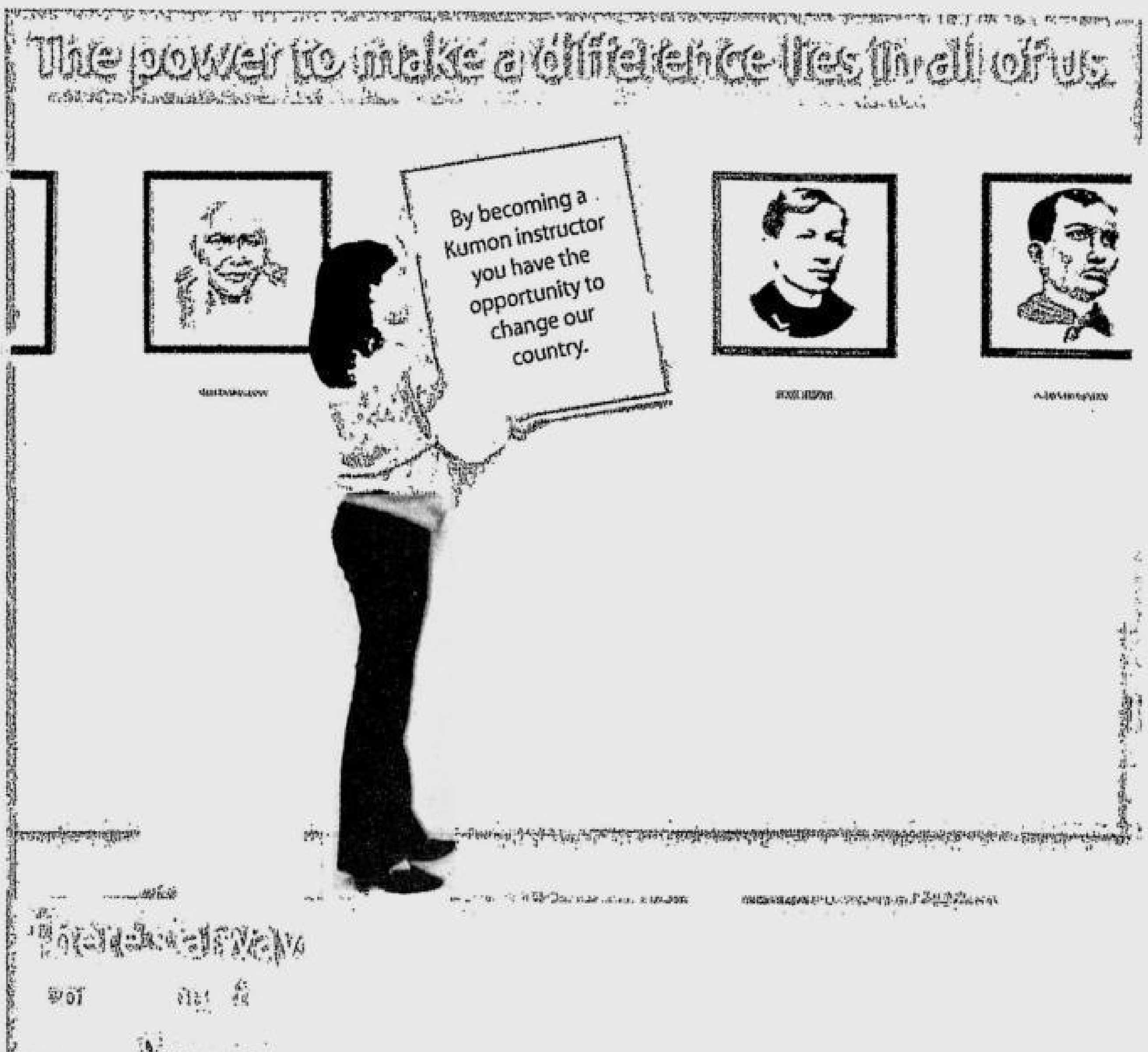
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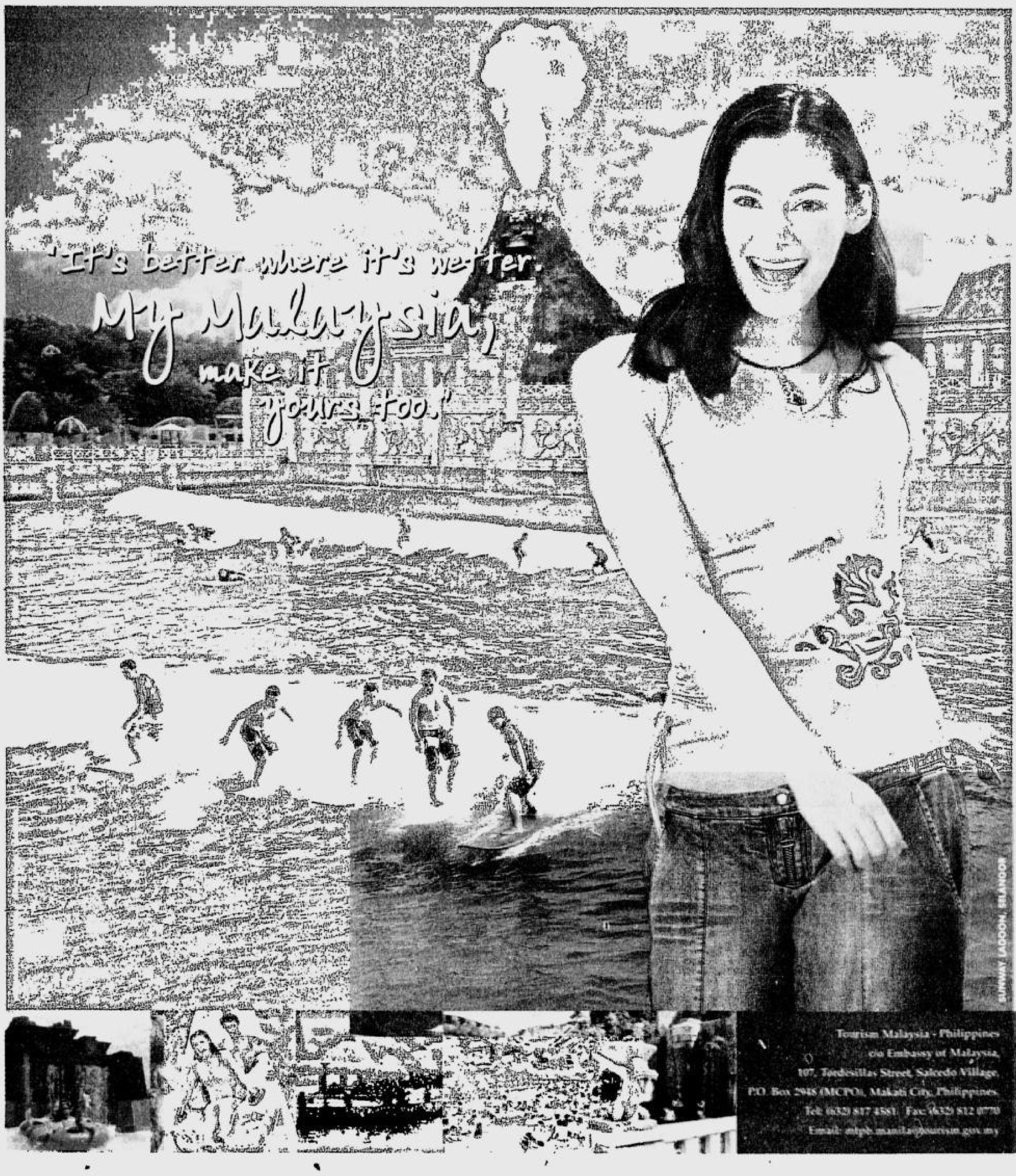

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Neri: No turning back; wary testimony could ...

From page A1

erode the economic gains the country made this year, the CHEd chair said.

Neri said he harbored no illusion on the effects of his testimony and downplayed his role in the controversy.

"I don't expect deep-seated reforms from one testimony tomorrow," he said.

"I think people are putting too much expectation on what I'm going to say," the former Neda chief said, chuckling.

He was the secretary general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) when the NBN project was approved and the contract awarded to China's ZTE Corp., a state-owned firm listed on the Shenzhen and Hong Kong stock exchanges.

The Neda board, which is chaired by the President, studies and approves projects that the government wants to pursue.

President Arroyo last night left for the United States without Neri, whom she had earlier wanted to bring along on her trip to New York for the United Nations General Assembly session. She ordered him to stay behind and attend the Senate hearing.

Neri was not in Ms Arroyo's 68-member entourage. The delegation included Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Trade Secretary Peter Favila, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and several lawmakers.

Picture of calm

Neri was a picture of calm the day before he was to face the storm of questions in the Senate.

The only thing bothering Neri before his Senate appearance, it seemed, was a sore throat and intermittent coughing.

"Definitely. Hopefully, I'm not too sick," he said when asked if he would attend the Senate hearing on the NBN deal, which has been tainted with allegations of bribery, overpricing, bullying and "sexcapades."

The senators are expected to ask Neri about reports that Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. had offered him P200 million in exchange for the approval of the ZTE proposal to undertake the NBN project.

Neri neither confirmed nor denied the bribe offer when asked about it over dzBB radio on Sept. 6.

Jose de Venecia III, owner of Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), also claimed that Abalos had offered him $10 million to withdraw his company's unsolicited proposal to undertake the NBN project.

Abalos has denied offering bribes. The Comelec chair, who said he would attend the hearing today, asked the senators and the public to withhold their judgment on the NBN deal until they had heard all sides.

Reform corrupt system

Neri expressed the hope that the senators would go beyond getting the names of the officials involved in the ZTE deal.

Neri said he wanted the Senate to focus not so much on "who did what," but on the flaws in the government's policies that have led to so much corruption in the system.

"What I would not like to see happen is an emphasis on personalities, on who's guilty of what. My long-term view is to reform the system," Neri said.

The electoral system, which has become too expensive, should be reformed to weed out oligarchs so that the voters could have better choices come election time, Neri said.

NERI

Kampi treasurer

A Cabinet official has told the INQUIRER that a businessman engaged in port services had served as the treasurer of the administration coalition, Team Unity, during the May 2007 elections.

Neri said "oligarchs" in government pursued only their interests at the expense of the people.

Neri said the costs of these systemic flaws to the public are larger than the price tag of any controversial contract.

To take 1 year rest if ...

Neri noted the possibility that Malacañang would be unhappy with his statements in the Senate and that he would be relieved of his post.

If Malacañang asked for his resignation, Neri said he would gladly step down because he served upon the President's discretion.

He said he would go back to the private sector. But first, he'll have to take a long vacation, he said.

"Maybe I'll take a one-year sabbatical," Neri said.

He was absent from last week's Senate hearing, where Cabinet officials privy to the deal were present.

He said an intestinal flu prevented him from attending.

On Monday, Neri said he may have to skip the Senate investigation as he was ordered by Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo to accompany President Macapagal-Arroyo to New York for the United Nations General Assembly.

But Malacañang backtracked on the same day and said Neri would remain in the country to allow him to participate in the Senate probe.

Neri said the Palace probably changed its mind because of the opposition to his leaving on the eve of the Senate hearing.

Church officials have appealed to Neri to come out with the truth on the ZTE contract.

Neri has "the distinct opportunity to be seen as a man of conviction or convenience," Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz said.

Cruz said Neri's decision whether or not to come out with the truth was also an option to side either with truth or corruption.

For his part, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said Neri's testimony would help clear the government officials who were not involved in the deal.

Neri will testify on the deal on the wings of prayers by the civil society group Black and White Movement.

"Today, we join the nation in praying that Romulo Neri will be blessed with the courage and the patriotism to do the right thing and lay bare the truth about this deal," said Leah Navarro, a convenor of the group. *With reports from Beverly T. Natividad, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Tarra Quismundo and Fe Zamora*

GMA conducts own probe, finds no bribery

From page A1

roborated."

She did not provide details of the investigation.

"We have suspended the national broadband and cyber education projects in response to political criticisms," the President said in her speech.

The suspension of the project to build a broadband network linking state agencies and local government units nationwide was announced on Saturday.

The Supreme Court, however, earlier stopped the implementation of the NBN project by issuing a temporary restraining order after it received two separate petitions seeking to nullify the NBN deal.

The contract was signed by Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and ZTE vice president Yu Yong in Boao, China, on April 21 in a ceremony witnessed by Ms Arroyo.

Emerging from the Palace meeting attended by Cabinet officials and members of civil society and Church groups, Secretary Cerge Remonde of the Presidential Management Staff said he did not know about the investigation.

"The President (has spoken). We leave it at that," he said.

Chain of command bypassed

Two weeks ago, an intelligence officer told the INQUIRER that the President had tapped certain individuals with experience in criminal investigation to conduct the probe.

The orders were given informally and bypassed the regular chain of command for any government investigative body.

"The President wants to know what the whole thing is about, what the main characters are fighting about and why," said the officer, who asked not to be named to protect his job.

The investigators obtained an affidavit on the NBN deal from an individual [other than De Venecia who has signed an affidavit].

The investigators also looked into the nature of Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), the technology firm that was sidetracked in the deal, and visited its offices at Unit 1101, 139 Corporate Center, Valero Street in Makati City.

"It looks like a fly-by-night operation. There wasn't even signage to signify that this was the headquarters of a company bidding for a big contract like the NBN," the intelligence office said.

AHI's incorporation papers with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) showed a different address, according to the intelligence officer.

Official communication of the company also looked spurious, he said, noting that AHI did not even have "a decent letterhead."

Kickbacks

At the first Senate hearing on the ZTE deal last week, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III said that the NBN contract was overpriced to facilitate kickbacks to senior government officials and that Abalos was involved.

De Venecia, owner and founder of AHI, a Filipino company that submitted an unsolicited proposal to undertake the NBN project, said it was Abalos who offered him $10 million to withdraw AHI's proposal.

The businessman also claimed that the President's husband tried to browbeat him into withdrawing from the project. Arroyo has denied De Venecia's allegation.

P200-million bribe offer

Romulo Neri was also reported to have been offered a bribe by Abalos to the tune of P200 million in exchange for approval of the ZTE deal by the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

Neri was director general of Neda when the NBN and CyberEd projects were approved early this year.

Now chair of the Commission on Higher Education, Neri has neither confirmed nor denied that he was offered P200 million.

The chair of CHEd, who cited intestinal flu as an excuse to skip the second Senate hearing on the ZTE deal on Thursday, is set to appear at the resumption of the Senate hearing today. (*See story on Page A1.*)

With a report from Reuters

GMA sets up special panel for China deals

From page A1

Remonde, and a representative of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines and a Church leader still to be named.

Ms Arroyo said she expected the framework agreement to further enhance bilateral merchandise trade between the Philippines and China.

Remonde denied that the panel was formed to appease China following Ms Arroyo's decision on Saturday to suspend the Chinese-funded National Broadband Network (NBN) and Cyber Education Project (CEP).

But he told reporters that the creation of the special panel was done amid allegations of overpricing and payoffs in the $329-million broadband deal with China's ZTE Corp.

Legacy projects

"Learning from the ZTE experience, the one way of moving forward is to ensure that there is greater transparency in all these projects," Remonde said.

He said the panel would "review all the China agreements" and fast-track deals which are aboveboard to ensure that "all the requirements of transparency, decency, economy, priority" are followed.

"Legacy projects of this government in the last three years are all infrastructure, so the President wants to ensure that all these projects will be implemented in full transparency and efficiency," he said.

China's surplus funds

Remonde said the panel's mandate was limited to Chinese-funded projects "because the Chinese projects have become very controversial. And there are many major projects ... that may be funded by China."

He cited Laiban Dam in Tanay, Rizal, that would enhance the water supply for Metro Manila and some irrigation and agriculture projects that Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap had voluntarily withdrawn.

"It is common knowledge that China has surplus funds for investment. And among the countries being supported by China, because of our excellent relations with the Chinese government, the excellent relations between President Hu Jintao and President Arroyo, the Philippines has become a sort of favorite," Remonde said.

In her speech, the President underscored the role played by China in the Philippine economy.

China is currently the country's third largest trading partner with whom the Philippines has had a substantial trade surplus since 2002, she said.

She said the suspension of the NBN and the CEP projects "should not be construed as a precedent for every disgruntled project proponent and his backers to undermine undertakings that comply with the law and benefit the nation."

"All branches of government must ensure that vested interests do not exploit our democracy to block our development," she said.

Invoking the "separation of powers," the President said "the executive shall continue to invest in our land and our people, subject to budgets and laws enacted by Congress and rulings handed down by the courts."

Good ties with China

Yesterday, Ms Arroyo said her administration had "proceeded with the preliminary processes regarding the project because we need to keep our good relations with China, even as we consulted with their highest authorities about a possible deferment.

"We announced the deferment as soon as they indicated that they [China] will try to understand our predicament," she said.

Ms Arroyo expects a robust engagement with China despite the ZTE fiasco.

"China is the fastest growing country in the region and the world. We see its rise as a significant opportunity for the Philippines," she said.

"Our overall relations with China have become more confident, mature and comprehensive, punctuated with substantial and important projects aimed at deepening exchanges in a number of areas, including trade and official development assistance."

Regret

Ms Arroyo did not hide her regret about the suspension of the NBN and CEP, saying the move created a "gap" in her 10-point agenda.

"Government telecom savings of P3 billion a year from broadband may not be forthcoming, slashing that much from the funds for social services. And world-class ICT (Information Communication Technology) might no longer reach 4th to 6th-class municipalities and the least endowed schools," she said.

For this reason, Ms Arroyo said she had asked Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza to discuss with private telecom companies "how government can cut its phone, fax and online expenses, so we can spend more on programs and projects."

But the President said she was determined to fulfill "the vision that by 2010 the network digital infrastructure on which our government had embarked will have linked the entire country."

Yap slammed

Also yesterday, an agrarian reform NGO dismissed Yap's move suspending three agribusiness deals with China as a mere attempt to preempt a Senate inquiry and instead called on him to resign.

"It's damage control," Steve Quiambao, a member of the board of the PEACE Foundation, said in a phone interview.

Yap on Monday said he had recommended the suspension of three memorandums of agreement with China aimed at developing 1.24 million hectares of agricultural land for agribusiness.

The recommended suspension of the deals, which were signed in January, would pave the way for more consultations with stakeholders, he said. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

SC okays writ of amparo rules; effective Oct. 24

From page A1

Chief Justice Reynato Puno said in a statement.

He added: "The writ of amparo shall hold public authorities, those who took their oath to defend the Constitution and enforce our laws, to a high standard of official conduct and hold them accountable to our people. The sovereign Filipino people should be assured that if their right to life and liberty is threatened or violated, they will find vindication in our courts of justice."

The writ may be applied retroactively, meaning the families of victims of such killings and disappearances that took place before its effectivity may still seek relief, said the high court's spokesperson, Jose Midas Marquez.

Broader in scope

The issuance of a writ of amparo was among the measures discussed in the Supreme Court-led multisectoral summit in July to address the unabated killings and disappearances of activists and journalists.

The Philippines' writ of amparo is broader in scope than its counterparts in other countries.

"It protects not only against actual violations but also against threats of violations of rights, [and] covers not only unlawful acts or omissions of public officials or employees, but also that of private individuals or entities," the high court said in a statement.

Under the rules, a temporary protection order (TPO) may be issued to protect the aggrieved party or his/her family in a government agency or private institution. If the petitioner is an institution, the TPO will cover its officers.

An inspection order may be issued by a judge to scrutinize a property or any relevant object. But such an order may be opposed on grounds of national security or the privileged nature of the information, and the judge will have to conduct a hearing to determine the merits of the opposition.

The court may also issue a production order for the disclosure or inspection of documents or objects relevant to the petition.

A witness protection order may likewise be issued, wherein the judge may refer the witness to the protection program of the justice department or other government agencies or private institutions.

In 72 hours

Respondents, whether government officials or private persons, are required to respond to a petition for the writ of amparo in 72 hours, and show that they did not violate or threaten the right to life, liberty and security of the aggrieved party.

They must explain the steps taken to determine the fate of or find the aggrieved party, and the persons responsible for the threat or offense.

If the respondent is a public official, he/she is supposed to state what he did to identify the aggrieved party, recover evidence to aid the prosecution, identify witnesses, tag and apprehend the persons involved, file charges against them, and determine the cause, manner, location and time of the death or disappearance.

"The writ of amparo imposes a higher standard of diligence on public officers or employees than on private individuals or entities. There shall be no presumption of regularity on the part of the public official or employee," the high court said.

It prohibited motions to dismiss a petition for a writ of amparo, as well as motions for an extension of time to file a return, postponement, or intervention and motions for reconsideration.

At no cost

A petition for a writ of amparo may be filed at no cost at any regional trial court nationwide, the Sandiganbayan, the Court of Appeals, or the Supreme Court.

It may be filed by any member of the aggrieved party's family or any relative within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity. Any concerned citizen, group, association or institution may also file a petition if there is no known member of the aggrieved party's immediate family.

Customs lowers its target by P5B

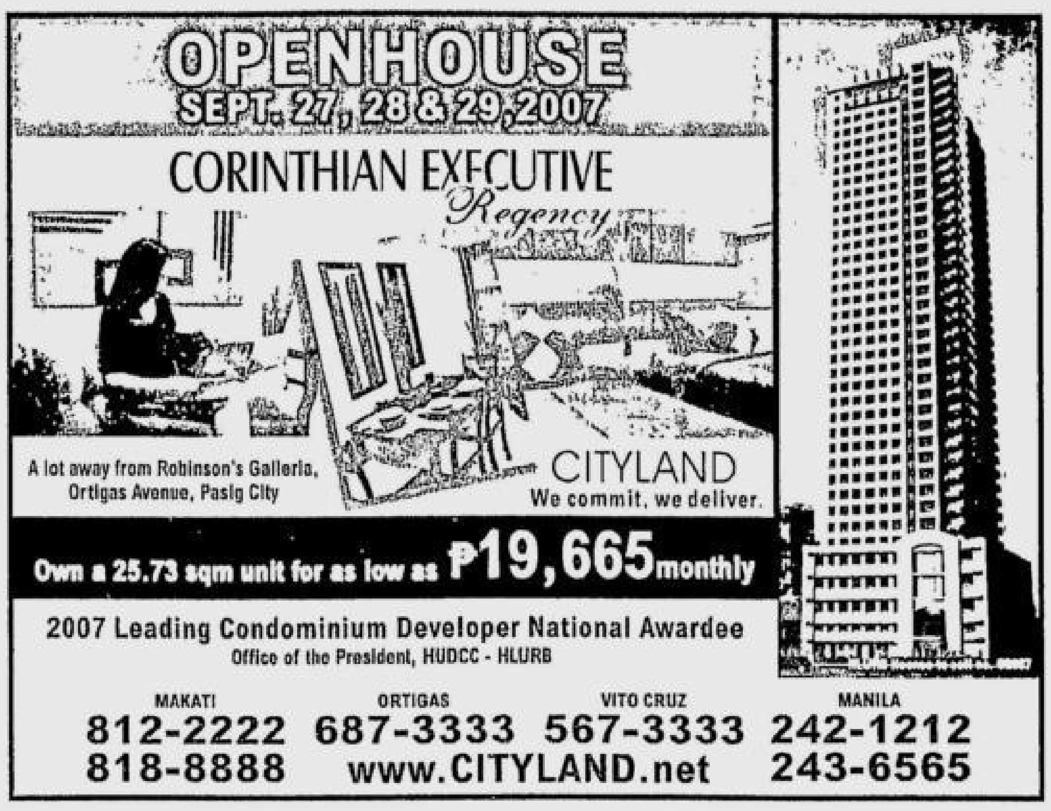
THE P228-BILLION revenue target of the Bureau of Customs has been reduced by P5 billion, according to Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales.

Morales said the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) made the downward adjustment because of the consistently strong rise of the peso's value against the dollar, which is the currency that is collected for imports.

"The DBCC realized that the assumption of foreign exchange rate from which our revenue target was based is not materializing. The Department of Finance has already computed that every P1 peso appreciation in the value of peso against the dollar would have a P2.2-billion implication for our collection. This factor is really beyond our control," Morales told reporters.

Morales explained that the original revenue target of the BOC was based on an exchange rate of P48 to the dollar. The adjusted P223-billion target is based on a rate of P46 to the dollar.

The customs bureau earlier appealed to the DBCC for a reduction in this year's collection target, citing "the nonmaterialization of assumptions of the target that included not only the exchange rate but also the volume of imports." *Margaux C. Ortiz*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OPINION

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Bodyguard of lies

EDITORIAL

CIRCLES WITHIN CIRCLES CHARACTERIZE OUR society. In the case of Chairman Romulo Neri of the Commission on Higher Education, all the circles in which he operates are applying tremendous pressure on him. We understand that his Ateneo classmates have sent him messages of support, urging him to be forthright. His fellow academics have also issued appeals to his patriotism and professionalism. Malacañang, for its part, has subjected him to round-the-clock surveillance and every move of his must be reported to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. Practically every form of official intimidation available was employed to keep him from testifying before the Senate—until the public outcry became so intense that President Macapagal-Arroyo had to allow him to testify before the Senate.

The bunker mentality that characterizes Malacañang wants Neri to see himself as being trapped in the prisoner's dilemma: Two suspects in a crime are isolated. The cops tell each suspect that if he turns his partner in, the cops will be kind to the one who spills the beans. But you'd better do it before the other guy turns on you. The last one to talk, the cops say, will bear the full force of the law. The catch is that if both suspects stick to denying wrongdoing, neither of them will suffer. So long as both stick to the same lie, they get off scot-free.

However, the prisoner's dilemma doesn't apply to Neri's case, because isolation is the key to it. Neri should be able to see that the public believed the testimony of Jose "Joey" de Venecia III simply on the basis of what the man said. That should reassure him that as long as the allegation is plausible and the whistle-blower is credible, there is no need to go down the road of what constitutes "proof" from a lawyer's point of view. He can go back even further and recall how all the wily lawyering of Estelito Mendoza went for nought in the face of the credible and forthright testimony of Clarissa Ocampo.

When Neri takes the stand today, he can either tell the unvarnished truth or he can withhold crucial details or even perjure himself. He can either tell it as it was, and is, or commit acts of omission and commission that could fatally damage the public interest. The tremendous pressures he has faced in recent weeks are meant to make him shy away from revealing all that he knows. It is a threat that will only get more sinister if he dodges the challenge to tell all.

The best defense being a good offense, Neri's self-interest and that of the country leave him no option but to tell all. Once he talks, he becomes untouchable. We are not being hyperbolic when we say that having revealed everything, it would be catastrophic for the administration to try to get even with him. But if he holds back, he gives up all hope of safety, not to mention his credibility and professional standing and his future. He would be self-damaged goods.

No official gets as far and stays in official circles so long as Neri has without turning a blind eye to certain wrongs. This is done in the hope that wrongdoing will only serve as a minor liability for otherwise overwhelmingly positive policies. It thus becomes second nature for officials to be secretive and then to justify withholding the truth or fabricating untruths, supposedly in the national interest. In the take-no-prisoners moral twilight of the present dispensation, it would be easy to adopt the Churchillian aphorism: "In wartime, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies." In all probability, this is the battle cry of an administration that would prefer that Neri perjures himself.

But our country is not at war in the way the administration thinks. Instead, there are warring factions within the administration disputing each other's version of events. The squabbling, however, only serves to underline the accuracy of another Churchillian observation: "The truth is incontrovertible, malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end, there it is."

We have asked this before and we ask it again: What did the President know, and when? The search for answers begins with Neri answering the same questions, and breaking step with the bodyguard of lies. And therein lies his deliverance.

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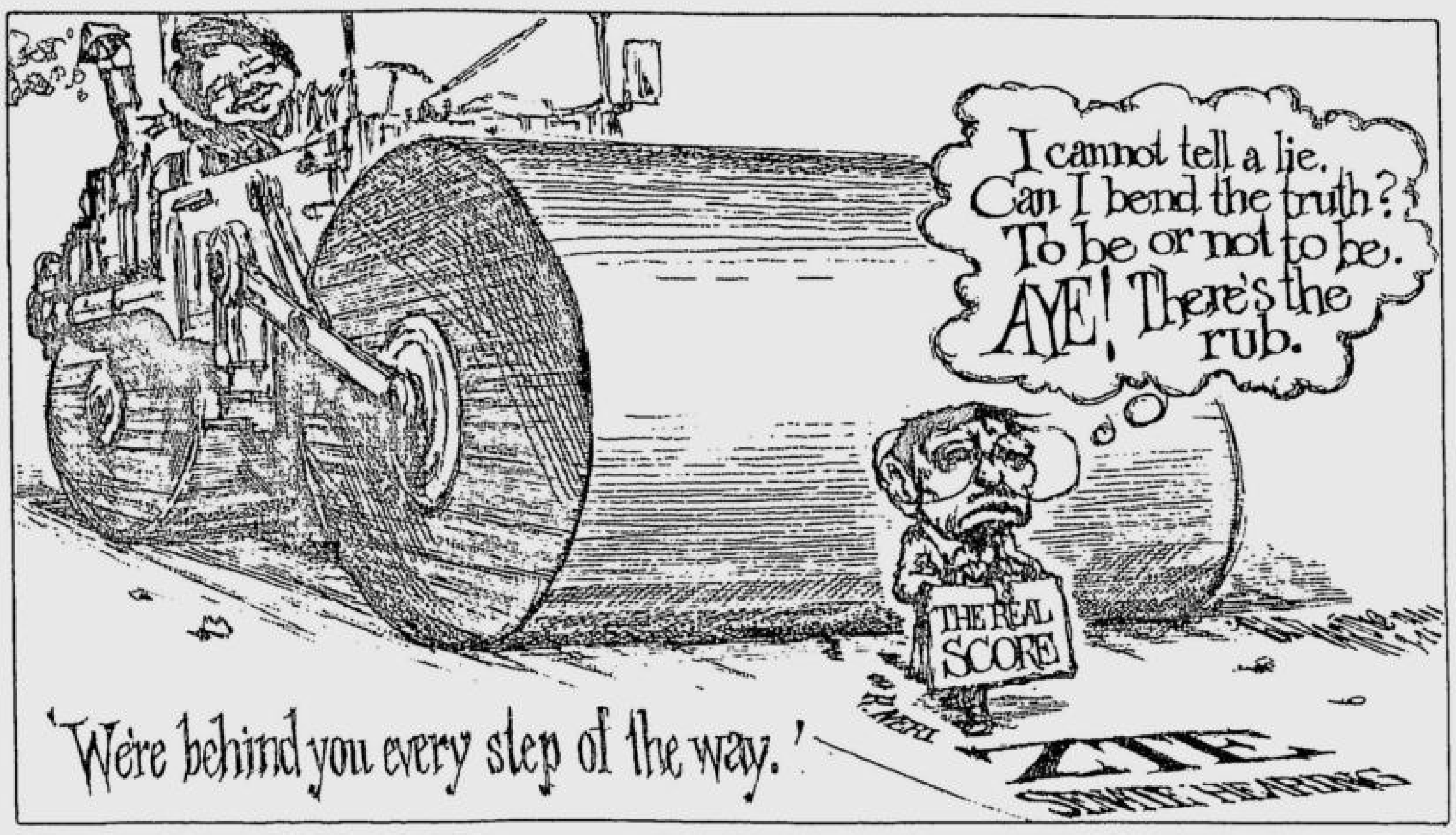
I cannot tell a lie.
Can I bend the truth?
To be or not to be.
AYE! There's the rub.
THE REAL SCORE
R. NERI
ZTE
SENATE HEARINGS
'We're behind you every step of the way.'

GMA wants to set precedent with Erap pardon

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS IN A hurry to pardon former President Joseph Estrada.

Why? I think it is to create a precedent wherein a former president convicted of plunder or graft is immediately pardoned by his/her successor. GMA is already preparing for her future. She knows that when she is no longer President, she will be inundated with charges of graft and/or plunder. By the law of averages, she may be convicted of one of them. She is therefore making it easy for the next president to pardon her.

Like most everything else she has done, GMA is thinking only of saving her own skin. She wants to pardon Erap not because she likes him; it is because she loves herself. In fact, she is doing it despite her dislike for the man.

Another reason she wants to pardon Erap is so that he would not instigate or finance destabilization efforts against her. She does not want Erap to do what she did to him six years ago. She wants to finish her term, something that she may not be able to do considering the many unconstitutional moves that she has done and the many corruption cases coming out, like the ZTE deal.

It is obvious that she is deathly afraid of the Senate investigation of this deal. The whole government has been harnessed to block the investigation, like prohibiting witnesses to testify, pro-administration senators trying to derail it, top government officials and businessmen and even prelates friendly to the administration calling on the senators to stop the investigation and move on. Why?

Why are they so afraid for the truth to come out? Perhaps some very important names will come out to be behind the deal. Perhaps it would come out that some very big hands have already received sums from the Chinese. Perhaps some officials will, when cornered, sing like canaries and tell who is the most powerful backer or even the mastermind of it all.

Of course, everyone involved will swear that he is innocent and as pure as driven snow. But won't that be precisely what the investigation will show: who are guilty and who are innocent? So if one is innocent, why would he be afraid of an investigation? On the contrary, he should want it right away so that he can prove his innocence.

It is the guilty who would want the investigation to stop. So why does the administration want the senators to terminate their investigation? It could only be because it is afraid of what they would uncover. Because it is afraid of the truth. Because the truth would show that some administration officials, or their bosses, are as guilty as hell.

* * *

The Philippine government is neck-deep in debt because it has a bad habit like many Filipinos. The average Filipino will borrow money even if he doesn't need it just because somebody is lending.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the ZTE deal. We don't urgently need the National Broadband Network (NBN) which would put us in hock to the Chinese for $329 million. We can still do without it. Neither is the P26.4-billion Cyber Education Project urgent. We can use the money for more urgent needs for education, like more schools, more and better textbooks, and more and better-trained teachers. But because the Chinese government is lending us the money, we are rushing headlong into the projects. Even if they are both grossly overpriced. Even if we already have more debts than we can afford to pay. Even if there are many other more urgent priorities that need the funds.

But the Chinese are not lending us money out of the goodness of their hearts. Like the Americans and the Japanese, they are lending us money so that we can use that money for projects to be contracted to their own companies. They are giving us loans not to help us but to help their companies. Let's not kid ourselves: that $329-million loan is tied to ZTE Corp. No ZTE, no loan.

Take the NorthRail project which is being financed with a loan from the Chinese. The loan was given on the condition that we buy the supplies from China and award the project also to Chinese corporations. No Chinese companies, no loans. In the case of the NorthRail and SouthRail projects, however, both are urgently needed, but still the loans are conditional on our giving the projects to Chinese firms.

A Chinese bank is investing $1.6 billion for the development of the Diosdado Macapagal Airport in Clark. You can be sure that the investment is tied to the condition that the construction of the terminals and improvement of the runway be awarded to Chinese companies.

* * *

Environment Secretary Lito Atienza tried a boat tour last Friday of the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando river system in Bulacan (which has already become world famous after being included among the 30 most polluted places in the world), but was reportedly turned off by the stench. So what is he going to do about it?

May I suggest that Atienza tour also the Tenejeros-Tullahan River which runs through Malabon and Valenzuela, also in Bulacan. It may not be as polluted as the M-M-O river system, but I am sure he would agree that it deserves a place in the world's most polluted list. As in other Philippine rivers, the major cause of pollution are the factories throwing their effluents into the river and the squatter colonies along the riverbanks that make the river their open sewer.

It should not be difficult to revive the Tenejeros-Tullahan River. It is a short river and it begins and ends in Manila Bay. The rising and ebbing of the tides can flush out the pollution. Months of this washing effect of the tides can cleanse it, provided no new pollution is thrown into it by the factories and squatters. The solution is to relocate the factories and the squatters.

More on this later.

Believe it or not

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

WE MUST BE GETTING USED TO THE STARTling and bizarre that we no longer pause to marvel at them. The recent ZTE or NBN hearing is a case in point. Some of the things there are positively of the "Believe It or Not" variety, yet we do not seem particularly blown away by them.

First, what is the Comelec chief doing having anything to do with a multibillion-peso deal involving telecommunications? What is the logic there, a fellow who cannot count votes right can be counted upon to count bandwidth right? Wouldn't a fellow like that be counted upon only to count the cash in an attaché case right—or be counted upon to insist on doing so? However the plotters of this deal squirm, they will never be able to wriggle out of that bind. What in God's, or somebody else's, name is Benjamin Abalos doing in a telecommunications deal, let alone brokering it?

The one and only time he had anything to do with IT was to bid out the computerization of canvassing for the 2004 elections, and his record there cannot possibly commend him to God or government, man or beast. Lest we forget, and unfortunately we do (nobody has dredged up that fact in recent days), he gave the winning bid to a group that was totally unqualified to bid. Gus Lagman exposed the iniquity and the Supreme Court voided the award. But not before the country lost not just a few billion pesos but a full million votes to the rightful presidential winner, Fernando Poe Jr.

Now, why does someone who has a record like that get to be involved in a telecommunications deal? Hell, why does someone like that continue to be the head of the Commission on Elections? The only reason the public may glean from it is that the ZTE deal is his commission on (rigged) elections.

Two, if the ZTE or NBN deal is such a boon to the nation, as Leandro Mendoza and company are insisting, why are the people who hatched it terribly anxious not to let us know who they are? Shouldn't they be in a rush to divulge their identities the better to be thrown confetti at while making their way down Ayala Avenue in a triumphal march? Why are they so eager to distance themselves from it, denying their involvement in it like Peter Jesus Christ after he was arrested or like someone caught in an embarrassing affair? Either they are shy heroes who prefer to remain anonymous, finding in doing something for the country its own reward, or they are crooked shysters who prefer to remain un-indicted, finding in the glare of public gaze the same sensation Dracula finds in a burst of sunlight. The public cannot take long to pick out the answer.

While at this, will someone please explain to me why sickness and/or affliction have become a natural defense against summons in this country? I say this because the senators were one in saying the First Gentleman should not be summoned to shed light on this darkness because of his state of health. Stephen Hawking is in a wheelchair, he speaks through a voice box in his throat a la Darth Vader, and yet he is able to explain easily to his audience the theory of time. Surely, another person in less straitened circumstances can give his audience to develop a theory of theft?

We allowed Norberto Gonzales to escape being grilled on the Venable scandal presumably because he got sick—his blood pressure shot up—and he went on to make other people sick, if not dead, kids particularly filled with the wholeness of idealism. Hell, we allowed him to eat bananas in the thick of it, and he went bananas. We allowed Garci to walk away presumably because he got sick—his blood pressure shot up, too—and he went on to make the voters of Bukidnon sick to their stomachs by running for congressman. The point of summoning them is to make them sick. The point of summoning them if they're sick is to make them sicker. And, conversely, to make the rest of us better by lowering our blood pressure.

Three, what in God's, or somebody else's, name are Erap's advisers doing advising him to seek pardon and/or amnesty from GMA, or not dissuading him from it? Only the other week, government and business were loudly hailing the decision to convict him as a warning to all crooks in this country that they would find neither hope nor haven, neither rest nor refuge, in these shores. One week later, a more spectacular case of corruption is set out before us and Erap does not rise bitterly to arraign the selective justice? Indeed, a case involving epic thievery by the highest officials of the land is laid out before us, and Erap won't cry out what all that triumph-of-justice rhetoric was in his case when justice is being beaten to a pulp by thugs in government even as we speak? Still indeed, a case that bolsters the PERC's assessment of us as the most corrupt country in Asia is paraded before us, and Erap legitimizes it by asking clemency from a head of government that unlike him steals votes apart from money?

Erap is the most credible person right now to thunder forth against corruption, doing as he is penance for it. His is the loudest voice right now that can be raised against corruption, being made GMA's scapegoat for it. And he willingly gags himself? That is the greatest Eraption of all!

And finally, will someone please explain to me what Jose "Joey" de Venecia III is doing saying things like, "I owe my morals to my father"? Did he win the image war at the Senate hearing only to lose it by stupidity? There are limits to the virtue of filial piety. Those limits are reached when the father is not exactly in any position to lend, or lecture, morals to a son.

Between Luli Arroyo accusing Joey de Venecia of being a zonked-out junkie and Joey de Venecia accusing himself of taking after his father, guess which one is worse?

Ah, this country. Believe it or not.

Corruption becomes top public concern

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE THIRD QUARTER SURVEY OF THE SOCIAL Weather Stations on public satisfaction with the performance of President Macapagal-Arroyo highlights two important revelations. The first is the steep plunge of the President's net satisfaction rating in just three months since the second quarter. The second, which is very revealing, is that she and her husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, are competing for the bottom niche in the hall of infamy as far as public opinion goes. In this race, Mike Arroyo beats his wife by a mile as a public villain.

Mike Arroyo is drawing most of the flak over the corruption scandals that have erupted during the past three months, including the $329-million National Broadband Network deal with China's ZTE Corp.

The third quarter survey flags a more chilling message: that corruption has become the main public concern, overshadowing the issue of the wave of extrajudicial killings and the remarkable economic gains of the second quarter of 2007. This is the message that the administration has to worry about because the salience of the corruption issue has dangerous implications. It could erode more seriously the legitimacy of the remaining three years of the Arroyo presidency than the revival of the controversy over the Garcillano tapes in the Senate.

The survey was taken from Sept. 2 to 5, during a week marked by allegations of bribery and overpricing in the award, without public bidding, to ZTE of the contract to establish a broadband network linking all government offices nationwide.

The survey found that 45 percent of respondents were dissatisfied with the President's performance and 34 percent were satisfied, for a net satisfaction rating of -11 points, down from her June net rating of -3. The new rating went back to the negative level of the second to fourth quarters of 2006, SWS points out, after being "roughly neutral in the first and second quarters of 2007. "

Ms Arroyo is no stranger to low satisfaction ratings, being in fact the most unpopular among the four presidents since the restoration of democracy in 1986. Her ratings appear to have been pushed more deeply by the outbreak in September of the ZTE scandal.

SWS blamed the plunge to "loss of support from the Visayas and Mindanao and worsening dissatisfaction in Luzon outside Metro Manila." The survey found that her net satisfaction rating in urban areas dropped from -12 in June to -18 in September, but the drop was more steep in rural areas, from +8 to -3. This loss of support in the rural areas should be cause for concern, since these are considered as the mass base of her political support. The rural vote accounted for the return of the overwhelming majority of the administration's coalition candidates in the 2007 congressional elections.

Across socio-economic classes, the President lost more support. Satisfaction with her performance declined among members of the poorer D and E classes. It dropped from neutral in June to -13 in September among the poorest (class E), while it was worse among class D, from -5 in June to -12 in September.

The ratings of Mike Arroyo, who has figured recently in the publicity over his intervention in the broadband contract, reflect public disapproval of his interference in official transactions or the public's tendency to link him to allegations of irregularities that have recurrently plagued the administration. He has been reported recently to have told Jose "Joey" de Venecia III to "back off" his bid for the NBN project.

The survey showed that the negative net distrust rating of Mike Arroyo paralleled that of the President and even worse. The survey found 20 percent had much trust in him, while 58 percent had "little trust" in him, for a net trust rating of -37. His trust rating has been negative from September to the present.

The survey found the average proportion trusting Mike Arroyo was only 20 percent, while the average proportion distrusting him was 51 percent since 2001, giving him an average net trust rating of -31 from January 2001 to September 2007.

Noteworthy is the finding that Mike Arroyo was also "relatively distrusted" even by those who were satisfied with the President. Nearly half (49 percent) of those who were satisfied with the President's performance distrusted her husband, while 67 percent of whose who were dissatisfied with her also distrusted him.

After Mike Arroyo's "chance" encounter with De Venecia in mid-March at Wack Wack golf club, where press reports said he tried to browbeat De Venecia to withdraw his proposal to put the broadband project under a build-operate-transfer arrangement, some senators want him to testify at the hearings of the blue ribbon committee. But his involvement is peripheral and there are no allegations directly linking him to alleged bribery relating to the transaction.

The senators are hesitant to issue him a subpoena that would compel him to shed light on the transaction, in which Commission on Elections Chairman Benjamin Abalos has been accused by De Venecia of allegedly offering him a $10 million bribe to withdraw his proposal, because Mike Arroyo is not an official and has been linked to the transaction only through his encounter with De Venecia. Even though Mike Arroyo has not been pinned down for corrupt practices in the previous Senate investigation of the so-called Jose Pidal bank account, his backroom interventions in official business have fueled allegations of corruption in the administration and has wrought havoc on its satisfaction ratings.

What if?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE QUESTION TO ASK AMID THE SMOKE OF the heated war of words over the National Broadband Network deal with Chinese company ZTE is not "How much?" or "Is it legal?" or even "What did the President know, and when did she know it?" The question we should pose at this time is: "What if?"

What if Jose "Joey" de Venecia III decided that his bread was buttered on the same side as that of the Chinese and it was better for his health and sanity to keep quiet about the machinations of the Comelec chairman? What if he decided that earning $10 million as payoff was good enough, and he decided to walk away from the negotiations? What if the stink he raised was ignored by the opposition and the "moist-eyed" set in the Senate, as well as by the media? What if everyone involved in approving the ZTE contract managed to keep a low profile and quietly allowed the document—both the "stolen" version and the re-constituted one—to pass muster? What if the younger De Venecia did not have the Speaker of the House for his father? What if everyone in the administration got their story straight and gave a coherent, logical and reasonable explanation, instead of the often-contradictory accounts we have heard?

One answer to these and many other "what ifs" is that if indeed they had come to pass, we, the Filipino public, would probably never have heard of the NBN, ZTE, the Cyber-ed project, or even Joey de Venecia's thinning hair and past drug use. We would never have seen the cattier, nastier side of the "good First Daughter." Nor would we have learned of the backdoor negotiations that attend such billion-peso deals. True, we've heard rumors and loose talk of how power brokers enrich themselves by using nothing but "*laway*." But it wasn't until the Senate hearings on the NBN contract that we got a first-hand, detailed account of the machinations that went on just to get the right people to sign on the dotted line.

* * *

ANOTHER possible counter-result would be that without public scrutiny and the requisite public outcry, some officials would probably be walking off into the sunset with very golden parachutes, and the Filipino people would be left paying the bill for a project that is not only of doubtful provenance, but may not even be necessary.

What we saw during the past Senate hearings has been the Filipino political and economic elite turning on each other, literally pointing fingers and letting loose with well-kept secrets. I suppose we should thank our stars that the Arroyos and the De Venecias are political allies. Otherwise, the accusations and counter-accusations would have been dismissed as mere partisan sniping. We are being treated to the spectacle of two erstwhile partners, perhaps the most powerful in the land, squabbling over spoils. So aside from the *chismis* value, we should be paying attention to the hearings for the roadmap they are drawing on corruption in high places, how it starts, who are the players, and how to stop it.

* * *

TODAY promises one of the most exciting testimonies in the NBN probe, only next to that of the young De Venecia. Former Neda Director-General Romulo Neri has finally been allowed to appear before the Senate to shed light on his account that he had been offered P200 million to approve the deal (which he had the power to do so as Neda head), and that when he went to the President with the story, he was told to ignore the bribe offer but approve the project.

Neri has only one handicap, to my mind, and this is his closeness to the Speaker, which may prompt pro-administration senators to color his motives and the accuracy of his recollections. Neri himself may be, as a statement of the anti-Arroyo Black and White Movement says, "thinking that his declarations under oath may have serious political implications … weigh the pros and cons of his potential explosive testimony, and evaluate several scenarios that might result from his statements."

But as the saying goes, "The truth will set you free." Neri may not cherish playing a role in President Macapagal-Arroyo's downfall, or shaming, but as the B&W statement assures: "Doing the right thing is always worth the risk. Being candid and forthright may not necessarily result in the state of affairs we all desire, but these acts of sincerity may facilitate liberation from the current culture of impunity under which we suffer."

What if Neri decides to tell the truth and nothing but? The possibilities are rich with promise and risk.

* * *

CELEBRATING its 30th anniversary tomorrow, the British School of Manila (BSM) has good reason to boast of its accomplishments.

Foremost of these is its accreditation to the Council of International Schools (CIS), making BSM the only school in the Philippines to have made it to the exclusive list of only 200 schools worldwide granted CIS accreditation. As BSM head Chris Mantz asserts: "There are thousands of international schools around the world, but accreditation status confirms that the British School Manila is among the very best."

Despite the impression created by its name, BSM is not just for students of British citizenship or ancestry. Its student population of about 600 represents 43 nationalities, Filipinos among them.

The anniversary rites, to be held at the residence of British Ambassador Peter Beckingham in Forbes Park, will thus be an occasion to celebrate a school that offers students in the Philippines "the highest quality British education."

Now located at the Bonifacio Global City, BSM prepares its students to live, work and go for further studies anywhere in the world, with its graduates sought by the most prestigious universities in the world.

Resources for housing

COMMENTARY

Anna Marie A. Karaos
John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues

THE SCENE IS AN ALL TOO FAMILIAR ONE: ANgry and tearful faces of men and women denouncing the government for destroying their homes, leaving them and their children on the streets and in the rain.

When the monsoons come and threaten to unleash floods, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has to carry out the unpleasant task of removing houses encroaching on the easements of Metro Manila's waterways. The MMDA gets mixed reviews for undertaking these clearing operations. Some people criticize the agency for showing no compassion for the poor, and more seriously, for violating a law that prohibits the demolition of people's houses without providing their inhabitants relocation. But others commend it for doing its job to avert floods. While all the attention is understandably reaped by the MMDA, it is really powerless in solving this problem that haunts us every year.

When the nasty confrontations erupt between the MMDA and the informal settlers, local politicians find an opportunity to score points with their constituents by coming to the aid of the families against the MMDA. This is somewhat ironic as some of these politicians are probably more to blame than the MMDA for the urban blight, homelessness and encroachment that have given rise to the confrontations in the first place.

To begin with, local governments are supposed to guard the easements of waterways and railroad tracks against any form of encroachment. But given that river easements are already mostly occupied by informal settlers, local governments now have to find relocation sites for the families living in these danger zones. Many might question why the government should be obliged to give homes to these people, but this is the mandate of a law enacted way back in 1992. The law recognized that the proliferation of settlements on easements and other hazardous areas was a consequence of the failure of the market to provide affordable land for the growing number of poor families in our cities.

With this mandate given to local governments, I suppose we can hold the mayors, vice mayors, councilors and barangay officials answerable for the mess created by the MMDA demolitions along the waterways. Local governments are supposed to plan and undertake the resettlement of informal settlers by designating social housing sites in their land use plans, providing funds for this purpose in their local budgets and mobilizing their housing offices to transfer affected families to safe and permanent settlements.

If the poor are given affordable alternatives for housing within the city, near jobs and sources of livelihood, they will not insist on living in hazardous places along railroad tracks and riverbanks. The plain truth that nobody wants to admit is that the legal and safe alternative is simply not there.

Poor families just cannot afford the formal housing currently available on the market. Given the cost of living in Metro Manila, a six-member household with two minimum wage earners will have little left for anything else after paying for food, transportation, their children's schooling and other household needs. Socio-economic surveys of informal settler families show that on the average, these families can afford between P600 and P1,200 for rent or house amortization. Those with only one income earner can afford far less. These rates are clearly outside the formal housing market. If we don't want these families on the river easements, public money has to be spent on subsidizing their housing.

Some city governments do have social housing programs that assist poor families to acquire legal housing. These local governments augment their own funds with those drawn from home financing facilities administered by the national government. But many of them have not been able to do this for the families living in danger zones, for the simple reason that the numbers involved are huge and most cities do not have the resources to extend housing assistance on this scale. The latest estimates place the number of families along Metro Manila's waterways at 80,000 and those on railroad tracks at 30,000. But since Metro Manila has 17 local governments, the numbers should not be as daunting.

Still the majority of city governments, even in Metro Manila, cannot be expected to deal with the problem on their own. The national government can and should help by increasing the funds it makes available for lending to low-income home buyers and contributing state-owned lands which can be used as resettlement sites. Nothing should prevent the district representatives in Congress and even the senators who have urban poor constituents from throwing in some of their pork barrel and district housing budget allocations for the development of social housing and resettlement sites. Multilateral donor agencies are only too eager to lend to local governments for social housing and community upgrading projects.

The point is that resources for housing the poor can be found. But city governments will have to recognize first that the problem is theirs to deal with decisively.

The problem will not go away simply by relying on the MMDA's brute force to remove the unwanted structures along our waterways. A programmatic, massive and well-funded resettlement plan, with the local governments at the forefront, is what we need.

Just women

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE WORD "JUSTICE" WAS FIRST USED IN ENGLISH TO refer to a person who actually meted out, well, justice, so that today, we talk about the "justice of the peace." The word itself goes back to the Latin *justus* which means "upright, just," somewhat similar to our own *katarungan*.

We are a country thirsting for justice, but there is hope, precisely, in the people who don't just talk about justice but are justices in the original English sense of the word. My column today will talk about such women.

Three mothers

The other day there were demonstrations to mark the 100th day of the disappearance of activist Jonas Burgos, believed to have been abducted by the military. If you've been following his case, you know that his mother, Edita Burgos, has been in the frontline of the search, literally knocking on all doors—government officials, the police, the military, the mass media—hoping to find leads. Whenever I'm with friends and we discuss these political abductions—UP students, community organizers, Jonas Burgos—people tend to just shake their heads and hopelessly sigh, "*Wala na*," a sad resignation that there will probably be not even bodies. Then we see Jonas' mother on the television, pointing to a vehicle suspected to have been used in the abduction, and we feel ashamed at giving up so easily.

All over the world, in all kinds of different situations, mothers often lead movements for change, often spurred by personal loss. The grief must be overwhelming, a child's pain made her own and multiplied many times over.

Last Monday night, Channel 7's "I-witness" documentary, by Howie Severino, focused on the fraternity hazing and featured Cristy Mendez, whose son Cris Anthony was believed to have been killed in a Sigma Rho fraternity hazing. The cameras followed her, a simple woman clearly of modest means, as she walked up to her son's coffin. She was disconsolate, but not hysterical, asking her son's murderers to come forward, reminding them they too had parents.

Also in the documentary was Cora Icasiano, whose son Alexander Miguel was killed in a fraternity hazing in 1998. She had clearly recovered, but she, too, talked about a mother's pain, about not being able to see her son have his own family. If he had lived, he would have turned 28 this year. The fraternity members involved in her son's hazing did eventually come forward, were tried and were convicted for "reckless impudence leading to homicide." Those involved have served their jail terms and one of them, now back at the UP College of Law, appeared in the documentary, still very much a fratman but somewhat wiser. The documentary ended showing him paying his respects at the grave of Alexander Miguel Icasiano.

In the "I-witness" episode, Sen. Jovito Salonga's home became a point of convergence for the two bereaved mothers. This great statesman had resigned from Sigma Rho in protest, and Cristy Mendez and Cora Icasiano had gone there to thank him for his courageous act. It was an occasion for the two mothers to meet for the first time, to condole and to console. "*Pare-pareho lang tayo*," Icasiano told Mendez in solidarity as she hugged her.

Justice's colors

Sting had a poignant song, "They Dance Alone," which describes the sadness of people with disappeared relatives. "Hey, Mr. Pinochet," the song asks rhetorically of Chile's former dictator, "can you think of your own mother dancing with her invisible son?"

But the search for justice often brings mothers out of their solitary mourning, to band together and make a difference. In the United States, mothers who had lost children to drunk drivers eventually formed MADD, and you guess what that means. MADD has successfully lobbied for stricter "DUI" (driving under the influence) laws, to make the streets safer for other people's children.

In Buenos Aires, women have gathered each week at the Plaza Mayo de Uno since 1977, in silent vigil, asking for justice for their children and grandchildren who had disappeared during the military dictatorship in Argentina.

Sometimes, too, the women are catalyzed into action by the losses of others. Women in Black is an international peace network started in Israel in 1988 by women protesting against Israel's Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. It has since spread to the United States, England, Italy, Spain, Azerbaijan and in the former Yugoslavia, taking up other causes by silent vigils, while wearing black.

The most powerful women seeking justice are without ambition, and I mean that positively. We saw that with Cory Aquino, first thrust into the public limelight as Ninoy Aquino's widow. Hers was a short vigil of less than three years before she reluctantly agreed to lead the nation in toppling the Marcos dictatorship. The yellow ribbons intended to welcome Ninoy Aquino home gave a color to Cory's revolution.

In Burma (Myanmar), crimson has been the color of revolt as thousands of monks and nuns march in the capital's streets in their red-orange robes, trying to bring an end to the military dictatorship. The moving spirit has again been a woman, Aung San Suu Kyi, under house arrest since 1990 when her political party, the National League for Democracy, won in an election which the military refused to acknowledge. She has been criticized for being too passive and too quiet, lacking fiery demagoguery, but this tiny, 62-year-old woman has kept the country from exploding in violent revolution. Now the discontent has boiled over, but she and the monks and nuns insist on a Buddhist way, believing that one has to be socially engaged and strive for justice, but using a metta or loving-kindness that can be more powerful than bullets. The next few days will be crucial, with fears of a military crackdown.

It will be tough sailing, too, for Jonas Burgos' mother, and for Cristy Mendez. Sigma Rho has members in much higher places than Alpha Phi Beta, while in Jonas Burgos' case, we're dealing with the military. There are too many men here who feel they are above the mothers and above the law.

We often become impatient when justice takes so long to come, but mothers—in Burma or Argentina, Palestine or the Philippines—have a way of telling us when and how to wait, when and how to speak up. Last May, at a Mothers' Day gathering of Filipinas whose children are among the disappeared, Edita Burgos said that she had forgiven her son's abductors but her search for Jonas, and for justice, would continue.

There is much to learn as well from Cora Icasiano, who told "I-witness" she is satisfied even with the short jail sentences served by the fratmen involved in her son's death. All she had wanted was for those involved to come out, to surrender themselves so they could be tried. "*Walang labis, walang kulang* (Nothing in excess, nothing in deficit)" was her simple, eloquent way of describing justice.

These just women, these women justices, need few words to make their point.

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Not only JBC needs reform

THIS REFERS TO THE SEPT. 16 column of former Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban. I believe that it is not just the Judicial and Bar Council that should be reformed. (INQUIRER, 9/16/07) He should also look into the Office of the Court Administrator. It's composed of retired justices of the Sandiganbayan.

Last Aug. 3, 2001, I filed a case against a Sandiganbayan security guard for dishonesty, grave misconduct and falsification of official documents. But up to now nothing has happened to the case.

What can I do? This I'd like to ask the former chief justice. I was forced to resign from the Sandiganbayan because some people obviously wanted to cover up this case and other cases that I investigated.

If Chief Justice Panganiban is interested, I can send him the necessary documents/evidence, except that, as a pauper-litigant, I can't afford the mailing cost. I hope he wouldn't mind sending me a self-addressed envelope with stamps on it.

—ALBERTO PATASIN ABOGADO JR.,
yenrotta107@yahoo.com.ph

'Magnificent' work, Sandiganbayan ruling hailed

THE EDITORIAL "MAGNIFICENT" was a brilliant piece of journalism—objective and precise. (INQUIRER, 9/14/07) I would like to salute the writer for his diligence in going through the decision, something that millions of Filipinos will never do.

I also thank the INQUIRER for creating a link to a copy of the decision so that those who are interested get to learn how our justice system works.

I would also like to give a word of encouragement to the justices of the Sandiganbayan who are in fact the gatekeepers of good governance in our country; a lot of people who do not know any better probably generalize that every government body is corrupt.

I would like to give our justices the benefit of the doubt. I would not hasten to generalize; rather, I would like to start "de-corrupting" our government and society by personally rejecting any form of corruption whether it's offering a bribe or bending to extortion by government bureaucrats.

Again, to the Sandiganbayan and the "Magnificent" editorial writer, keep up the good work.

—GUS COSIO,
guscosio@yahoo.com

Misreading led to disagreement

IN REACTION TO MY LETTER published in the INQUIRER On Aug. 13, Ibrahim Dianalan argued that Christianity was established in this country by Legazpi, not Magellan.

But I never said anything about establishing Christianity. I simply stated that Magellan brought Christianity here in 1521. Today there is an ongoing debate about the site of the first Mass in 1521—Limasawa or Butuan. But there is no debate that there was a Mass, which marked the coming of Christianity to our shores.

The disagreement stems from Dianalan's misreading of a simple statement of fact.

—BENITO LEGARDA JR.,
7 Polk St., Greenhills,
San Juan City

'Muchas gracias' Inquirer

I WAS HUMBLED VERY MUCH upon reading Juan Escandor Jr.'s feature article about me. ("80 but still writing 'Dear Editor' letters," INQUIRER, 9/4/07) I could not just keep my thoughts frozen for eternity without enjoying freedom of expression and criticizing what I have seen and known in government.

My brothers in the Masonic Fraternity throughout the country and my sons Fermin and Jose of the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Development Bank of the Philippines, respectively, congratulated me via text messages. It only means that the INQUIRER is the most read broadsheet anywhere else. Not only that: my American son-in-law Kenneth May, who is in Florida, requested me to buy him two copies of the INQUIRER issue of Sept. 4 when his wife Clarissa, our daughter, made an overseas call to congratulate me. Ken said he will just get the two copies when they come over in December 2007 for the grand reunion of the Peteza clan and, according to him, he wants to keep it for posterity in the family library.

Our daughter Mary Ann and her husband Mario Manzano who are working in Sydney, Australia said they read it on the Internet, printed out a copy of it, which he is keeping for their son MJ to read when he graduates in the elementary. And our son Freddie who had just left for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia after a short sojourn, said he would surf the Internet upon arrival in order that his friends abroad could also read it.

To Escandor and his editors, *muchas gracias*. Rest assured, I shall cherish this momentous event in life until time shall be no more.

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR.,
gpetezasr@yahoo.com

Too frequent leadership changes bad for DepEd

THIS REFERS TO THE SPECIAL REPORT TItled "Education in crisis" with the subheading "Changes in top too often." (INQUIRER, 8/20/07) The report is very timely and relevant amid speculations that a new education secretary will again be appointed.

I dare say that such a change will contribute to the education crisis obtaining in our country today. This could again lead to changes in the thrusts and programs and the abandonment of laudable projects initiated by the incumbent education secretary. As I said in the INQUIRER issue of April 19, 2002, frequent changes in the programs of the Department of Education are a waste of time, money and effort and thus contribute to the education crisis.

I am no fan of Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, but I dare say that he has a definite program of action for the DepEd to achieve quality education, and he is a result-oriented leader—meaning, he operationalizes what he conceptualizes. He also employs participative governance. This is a good indication of an effective leader.

I hope and pray that the President would not be influenced by vested interests in her administration.

—HERIBERTO A. BAUTISTA,
information consultant,
Office of the Mayor,
Municipality of Pozorrubio,
Province of Pangasinan

Automate village, SK polls or hold them on Oct. 29

I AM FOR A COMPUTERIZED ELECTION that is foolproof against cheating and fraud. And I want computerization not only for the forthcoming barangay elections but in all kinds of elections in this country, whether national or local. However, unless Congress can pass a law resetting the barangay elections to another date, there would be no more time to choose the computerization machines that may be used, to test them nationwide or in pilot areas, and to train the manpower that's going to operate the machines.

But under the present circumstances—with the questionable leadership of the Comelec (after the more than P2-billion Mega-Pacific deal), and now in the face of the controversial ZTE-NBN deal—in no way must we allow another wastage of public funds.

We need the integrity of the likes of former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod, assisted by computer experts from the academe, like Ateneo and UP, to handle the sensitive process of computerization, especially the conduct of the bidding.

To buy time, it is imperative that Congress must reschedule the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan to either 2008 or 2009. Otherwise, it is time that barangay officials sought a fresh mandate because they have been overstaying and many are not performing their duties as expected of them.

—JERICHO JORDAN,
Jejordan_88@yahoo.com

Of fibs and figures

I AGREE ON THE LETTER ABOUT "TELLING the truth has a price." (INQUIRER, 9/11/07)

I often read the news and it seems the figures given don't show reality—how come lots of Filipinos are still jobless and poor, and looking for jobs abroad?

—EMMANUEL LORENZO,
edl_net@yahoo.ca

Telling glitter from gold in Philippine politics

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO SOLITA MONSOD'S column titled "Treated like dirt." (INQUIRER, 9/8/07) The fact that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is still President and Solita Monsod didn't win as senator years ago is evidence that we still lack the political maturity to distinguish glitter from gold.

It does speak, however, of the brilliance and bravery of our people who continue to hold our politicians accountable. Away from home, it's very difficult to get a calm and collected view of things. Monsod's columns never fail to remind me that, yes, Virginia, there is hope.

Please pass on my message to Monsod: if she decides to run for president in 2010, it will be the first time I'll register to vote at a Philippine embassy in the hope that it will get her elected. I want to be counted on her side.

—DORAY ESPINOSA,
dorayek@yahoo.com

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Governor wants abusive GIs expelled

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—SARANGANI GOV. Miguel Dominguez yesterday called on the government to expel abusive American soldiers from the country, rather than just giving them a slap on the wrist.

Dominguez was reacting to a report that five US servicemen went inside a fast food restaurant here on Sept. 19 with loaded guns. "They should be taught to respect our laws," he said.

Journalists were having a dinner meeting with Col. Gaudencio Pangilinan, commander of the Army's 1002nd Infantry Brigade, when the unidentified US soldiers arrived at Orange Bistro.

Antiterror tactics

The soldiers, who were part of a contingent deployed to Central Mindanao to train their Filipino counterparts in antiterror tactics, were in uniform and their firearms prominently displayed.

One of them even approached Pangilinan and asked him how the food was, although there was still no food on the table.

A visibly irked Pangilinan herded the US soldiers to one of the rooms for a talk. When the soldiers came out, their firearms were already concealed.

The soldiers should still be punished, Dominguez said. "If they could not respect our laws, we should kick them out of the country," he said.

In Jolo, Sulu, Armed Forces Chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. confirmed a plan to conduct another Balikatan exercise in Basilan.

Balikatan

"We will work it out as part of the plans programmed for 2008," Esperon said during a visit on Monday.

Bishop Martin Jumoad told the INQUIRER that even if the Balikatan was still on the drawing board, US soldiers have already been deployed to Basilan.

Operations

Military sources said the US servicemen arrived in the province after the July 10 ambush in Albarka town, where 10 of the 14 Marines killed were beheaded.

"Are the Americans really needed here?" Jumoad asked.

US Navy Lt. Commander Fred Kuebler said the forces were sent to Basilan upon the request of the Philippine military to provide support to the operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

"But not to engage in any combat operation," Kuebler said.

Maj. Eugene Batara, spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command, said there were only 10 American soldiers deployed to Basilan.

He said they are assigned to the Task Force Thunder.

"They are there to liaison for future civil military operations," he said. *Aquiles Zonio and Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

DPWH, MGB quarrel over ₱20-M road repair

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE DEPARTment of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) came under fire from provincial officials following its decision to bid out a P20-million road rehabilitation project despite a contrary advisory from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

The DPWH Cordillera's bids and awards committee (BAC) also took a severe beating in Monday's provincial board session when the officials criticized the department for failing to respond within 15 days to an official request to suspend the bidding to comply with a Civil Service Commission (CSC) circular.

Board Members Juan Nazarro Jr. and Rogelio Leon took turns grilling Daniel Domingo, deputy DPWH regional director, on why the BAC still decided to bid the project in Kapangan town when the MGB already said that concreting that road section was ill-advised since the site is unstable.

The BAC bid out the more than 4-km road repair project in Barangay Nalbengan in Kapangan on Sept. 3 despite a board resolution that opposed it. *Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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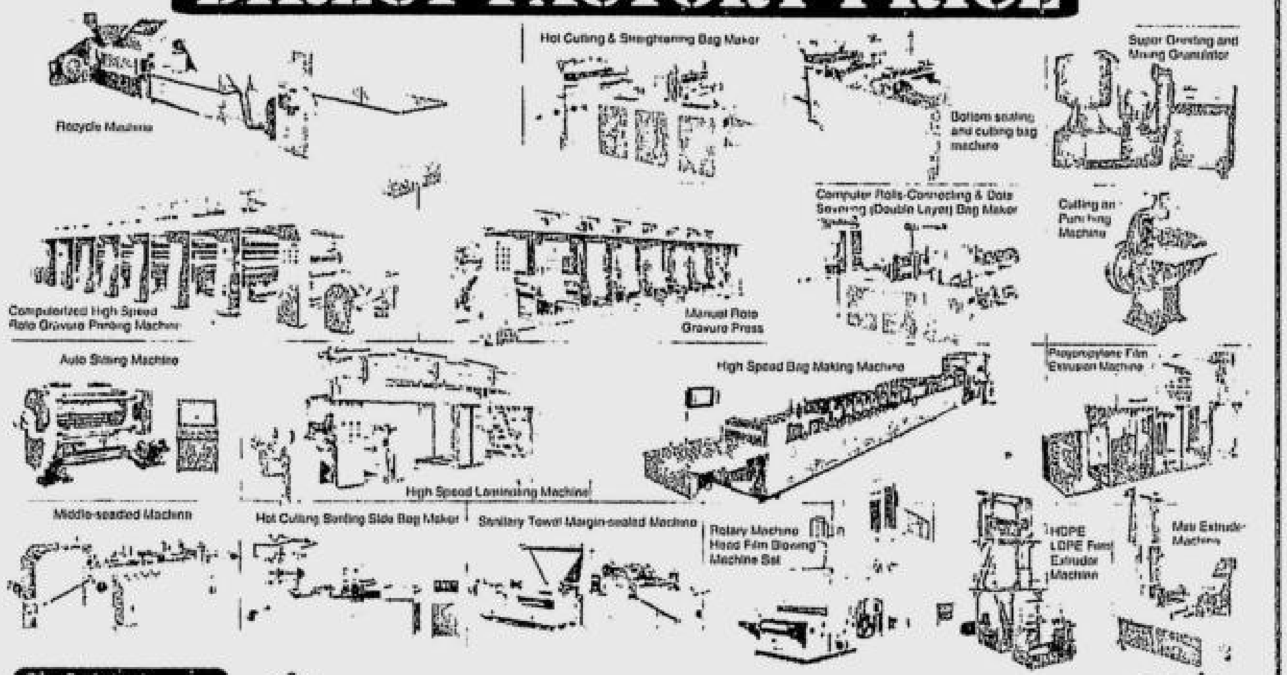
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Presentation by Heidelberg Phils., Inc.

1:30 - 2:15p.m.	Prepress: Workflow Integration & Computer to Plate by Mr. Randy Escudero
2:15 - 3:15p.m.	Prepress: Prepress Software Demo by Mr. Albert Castroverde
3:15 - 4:45p.m.	Press: Anicolor Inking System Consumables Pressroom Consumables by Mr. Adrian Litonjua
4:45 - 5:30p.m.	Postpress: Do's and Dont's in Print Production by Mr. Noel Soquerata

SEPTEMBER 27, THURSDAY

SEMINAR ROOM 1

3:00 - 3:45p.m.	Money Making ABC's by **Gakken Philippines, Inc.**
5:00 - 5:45p.m.	Inke Refills Stations by **E-novation Digimer Corp.**

SEMINAR ROOM 2

11.00 - 11.45p.m.	24/7 Printshop Ordering via Internet by **Fuji Zerox Philippines, Inc.**

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2.00 - 3.00p.m.	ISO9001 & 14,000 by **Anglo Japan American** Speaker: Mr. Paul Bagatsing
3.00 - 4.00p.m.	Hybrid Flexo CTP by **Ideal Marketing** Speaker: Vidhu Gautam
4:00 - 5:00p.m.	Digital Press by Sankarshanan Anantham
5:00 - 6:00p.m.	Emerging Technologies in U.V. Inks by **SIEGWERK INK PACKAGING** *Speaker: Ms. Siew Chin Yong*

SEPTEMBER 28, FRIDAY

SEMINAR ROOM 1

1:00 - 1:45p.m.	Gravure Inks by **TPT International**

SEMINAR ROOM 4

1:30 - 2:30p.m.	Integrating a Digital Press into your Offset Workflow by **FUJI XEROX PHILS.** Topic Outline: 1. Why Offset and Digital are Complimentary 2. Types of Digital Presses and Controllers 3. Offset Workflows and Integration Issues 4. Color Management 5. Impositioning 6. Case Studies
2:40 - 3:40p.m.	HP Indigo Digital Press by **Graphic Sales** *Speaker: Mr. Ariel Llanes*
3:45 - 4:45p.m.	New Trends in Self-Adhesive Labels by **AVERY DENNISON** *Speaker: Thanasun Sakchuenyod*
6p.m. onwards	Ideal Marketing - Seminar w/ Dinner (Strictly by Invitation)

SEPTEMBER 29, SATURDAY

SEMINAR ROOM 1

10:00 - 1:45p.m.	**TPT International**

SEMINAR ROOM 4

2:00 - 4.00p.m.	Answers on FAQ's on Digital Prepress by **B & W Commercial** Speaker Mr. Wilfredo Ileto

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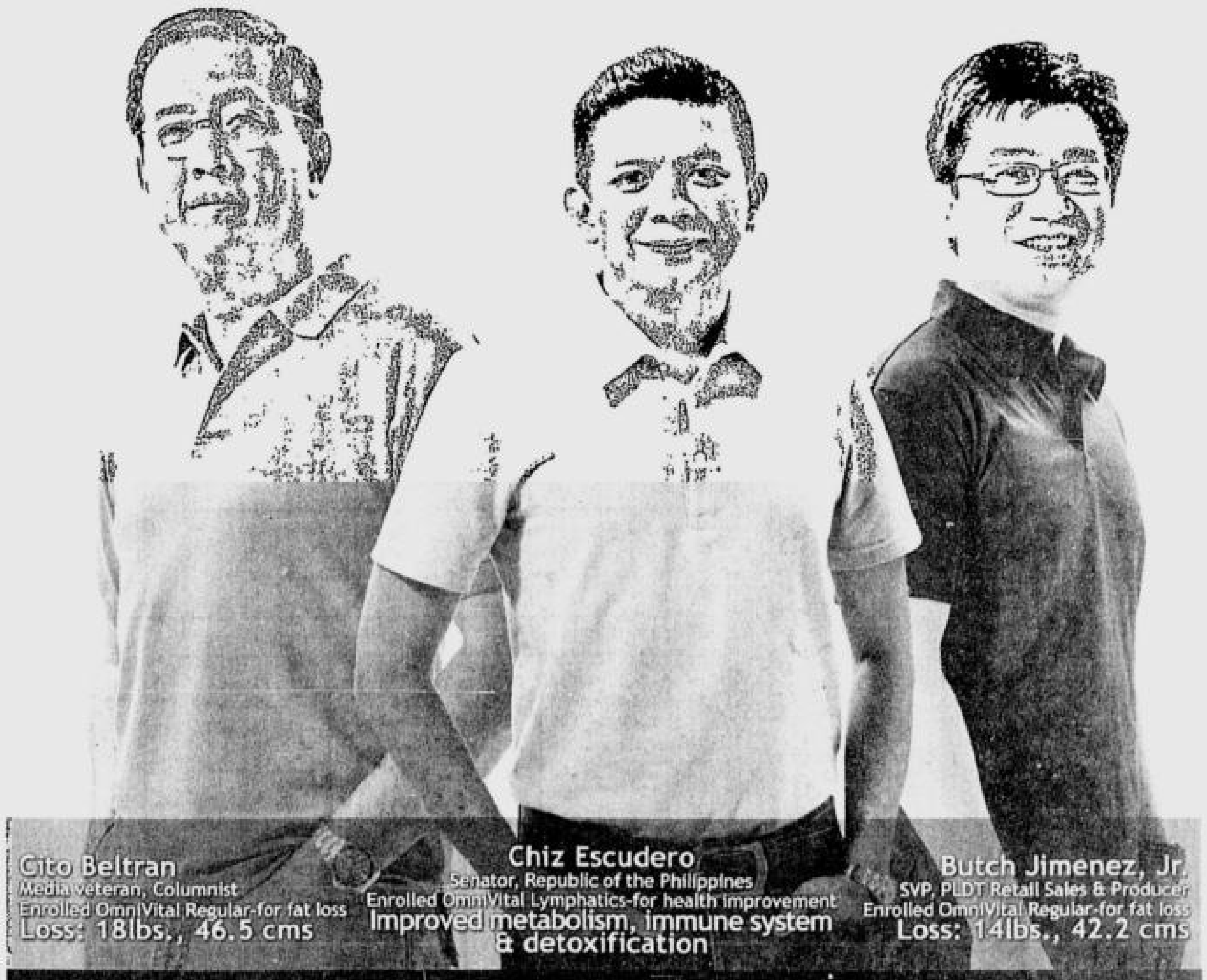
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7th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference

September 27-29, 2007 Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Manila

Asia Pacific Hospice Conference 2007

ASIA PACIFIC HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE NETWORK

Hosted by: PHILIPPINE CANCER SOCIETY

In Coordination with: Hospice Philippines

"Nurturing Partnerships in Hospice Care"

I convey my warmest felicitations to the organizers and participants of the 7th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference, whose theme, "Nurturing Partnerships in Hospice Care" aptly illustrates our collective objective for hospice and palliative care in the country as well as in the whole region.

I commend the Philippine Cancer Society and Hospice Philippines for hosting this conference. Their unwavering commitment to bring hospice and palliative care to the fore of the Filipino's consciousness is truly laudable.

Hospice and palliative care plays an important role on the health and welfare of Filipinos, especially the chronically and terminally ill. Long established hospice practices combined with global scientific breakthroughs has brought significant progress and advancement in the field of hospice and palliative care. I welcome this conference as a venue for more productive interactions and fruitful dialogue among international and local practitioners to respond to the challenges and issues of hospice and palliative care today. I likewise welcome the foreign delegates, including renowned pioneers and experts in hospice palliative care, to the country. Our administration share your passion and commitment to advance the health and welfare of the people by relentlessly implementing innovations and policies in order to deliver public health services and safeguard the people's health.

My best wishes for a fruitful and successful conference. Together, let us beat the odds toward positive change.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

My warmest felicitations to the delegates to the 7th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference. With the theme, "Nurturing Partnerships in Hospice Care", the conference is a fitting venue to broaden the partnerships between and among the Asia-Pacific Region's growing hospice and palliative care community.

Bringing the Conference to the Philippines will open opportunities and bring out the greatest potentials from local and international delegates towards advancing and promoting the hospice and palliative care movement.

The Department of Health, aware of the issues and challenges facing hospice and palliative care, calls on the delegates to take advantage of this occasion to work together and take strength from each other's expertise, knowledge, and experience. With our concerted effort, I am confident that the Conference will be able to draw out innovative ways and inspiring accounts that will bring us closer to our goal of providing advanced hospice and palliative care for all. I welcome the foreign delegates and international experts to the Philippines and invite them to take comfort in the warm and friendly embrace of Filipino culture.

I wish everyone a productive and enlightening conference. *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MPH
Secretary of Health
Department of Health

In behalf of the Organizing Committee of the 7th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference, I welcome all our foreign visitors and local participants to this landmark event in hospice and palliative care of cancer patients in the most populous region of the world.

Much preparations had been done to give you a very informative and educational scientific program, entertaining and fun-filled fellowship affairs, the breathtaking scenic spots of the country and, most importantly, the friendly and very accommodating reception of Filipinos for which we are world-renowned.

Our convention theme, "Nurturing Partnerships in Hospice Care," will highlight cutting edge technologies in hospice and palliative care presented by international experts in their respective fields. We will have very relevant and timely oral and poster presentations carefully screened by our selection committee. Yet, more than anything else, we are all here to achieve a common goal – foster better relationships between ourselves in order to improve our services to our fellow countrymen when we return to our respective nations. For this alone, we all have gain success in staging and participating in this conference.

Mabuhay po kayong lahat!

ALBERTO B. ROXAS, MD
Over-all Chairperson
7th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference

Warmest greetings to all the participants, delegates, friends, visitors and other stakeholders in the cancer hospice movement in the Asia-Pacific region!

It is with immense pride and pleasure that the Philippine Cancer Society, Inc. (PCS) hosts this annual event, in partnership with the Asia Pacific Hospice and Palliative Care Network, Hospice Philippines and Department of Health. With the theme, "Nurturing Partnerships in Hospice Care," the PCS now realizes its primordial goal after almost two decades of trailblazing the hospice movement in our country. Indeed, when we started in the early '90s, through the indefatigable efforts of then Social Work and Development Secretary and PCS President Dr. Mita Pardo de Tavera, until the formation of Hospice Philippines, the Society has actively concerted the efforts and contributions of hospice institutions in the country.

While the Society no longer dispenses hospice services as an integral part of its overall education and information program, we remain to fulfill our mission objective "to bring relief to those afflicted with cancer," through our vast network of local and global affiliates involved in hospice and palliative care.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Cancer Society, I again welcome you to this 7th edition of the Asia-Pacific Hospice Conference.

Mabuhay!

ROBERTO M. PATERNO, Ph.D.
Chairman
Philippine Cancer Society

MABUHAY is indeed an appropriate greeting to our visitors, friends and delegates to the 7th ASIA PACIFIC HOSPICE CONFERENCE. MABUHAY is a wish for good life. Hospice celebrates life and ensures that life is lived to the fullest in the midst of illness that encroaches upon the quality of life. We are gathering in Manila for three (3) days to exchange views and share experiences on how best we could deliver our mission to be the "heart of healing" for those afflicted with life threatening illnesses where cure is no longer possible.

I am confident that the Conference would synthesize the various experiences of participants into a viable hospice and palliative care program for the Asia Pacific region.

To our foreign guests, I hope you would enjoy your stay in our country and to our "kababayans" and members of Hospice Philippines continue the good work that you have started as advocate and practitioners of hospice and palliative care.

To our conference partners and sponsors, thank you for your support.

Mabuhay!

ASUNCION B. KALALO
President
Hospice Philippines

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On behalf of Asia Pacific Hospice Palliative Care Network, it is my greatest honor to welcome everyone to join together in Manila for the 7th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference.

Hospice team workers in Asia Pacific area is like a big family. We share the common vision to accompany the suffering terminal patients and their families. We could also nurture each other through academic knowledge, experienced skill and compassionate attitude. It is now the time of our reunion. I do believe this conference would be informative, fruitful and constructive.

I would like to express my gratitude for the organizing committee of the conference. Their endeavors make it possible for our reunion which only occurs once every two years. Our gathering here is for the fulfillment of our hospice care mission and cooperation in Asia Pacific region. The successful platform is made possible though excellent team wok of the organizing committee and I appreciate the generous offer of Philippine conference authority.

Hospice Palliative Care has been flourishing progressed in Asia Pacific area. Asia Pacific Hospice Palliative Care Network is honored to conjugate with Asia Pacific Hospice Conference and enhance the power of hospice movement. Let us joyfully anticipate this coming hospice festival.

Enoch Lai

ENOCH Y.L. LAI, MD
Chairman
Asia Pacific Hospice and Palliative Care Network

• Program-at-a-Glance •

7th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference
"Nurturing Partnerships In Hospice Care"
September 26-29, 2007 • Sofitel Philippine Plaza

		Pre-Conference Seminars September 26 (Wednesday)		Day 1 – September 27 (Thursday)	Day 2 – September 28 (Friday)	Day 3 – September 29 (Saturday)
0800H				**Opening Ceremonies** *(Luzon / Mindanao)*	*Plenary Lecture 3* *(Luzon / Mindanao)* ***ANDRES SORIANO MEMORIAL LECTURE*** **Diagnosing Suffering** (Dr. Eric Cassell)	*Plenary Lecture 5* *(Luzon / Mindanao)* **Partnerships in Palliative Care Education** Teaching palliative care (Prof Satoru Tsuneto) Palliative care education: training the trainers (Dr Cynthia Goh) Can we teach compassion? (Dr. Rosalie Shaw)
0830H	R E G I S T R A T I O N	Seminar I *(BSLR East UP College of Medicine)* **PHYSICAL SUFFERING**	Seminar II *(BSLR West UP College of Medicine)* ***Philippine Society of Medical Oncology Lecture:*** **ETHICAL ISSUES IN CLINICAL DECISION MAKING FOR ADVANCED CANCER**	*Plenary Lecture 1* *(Luzon / Mindanao)* **Nurturing Partnerships in Hospice Palliative Care** (Dr. Cynthia Goh)		
0930H					Coffee Break Poster Presentation 2	
0945H				Coffee Break Poster Presentation 1	*Symposium 7* (Luzon) **Ethical Issues in Palliative Care** Patient autonomy in the Asian population (Prof Cecilia Chan) Terminal sedation for refractory symptoms (Dr. Eric Cassell) Suffering and the law (Prof. Norchaya Talib) *Symposium 8* (Mindanao) **Palliative Care and Children** Reaching for the pot of gold: developing best practice model for pediatric palliative care (Carol Quayle) Children facing losses (Prof. MR Rajagopal) Uplifting the spirit: the Kythe Child Life Program (Fatima Garcia)	
1000H				*Symposium 1* (Luzon) **Partnerships in Pain** Are opioids essential in the management of cancer pain? (Prof. MR Rajagopal) Interventional management for cancer pain (Dr. Alex Yeo) The child in pain (Dr Dido Vilanor) *Symposium 2* (Mindanao) **Partnerships in Service Delivery** Bridging hospital and community (Dr. Ednin Hamzah) Partnerships in hospice development in Korea (Prof Youn Seon Choi) Increasing palliative care coverage in Taiwan (Dr. Yingwei Wang) *Symposium 3* (Mindoro) **Spirituality** Existential suffering (Dr. Eric Cassell) Healing without curing (Dr Doug Bridge) Spiritual preparation for dying (Sr. Geraldine Tan)		Coffee Break Poster Presentation 3
1015H						*Plenary Lecture 6* *(Luzon / Mindanao)* **New Developments in the Asia Pacific Region** Philippines: The impact of the National Hospice Council (Atty. Asuncion Kalalo) Korea: Palliative care service models for Korea (Prof. Young Seon Hong) Vietnam. Guidelines for palliative care in HIV/AIDS (Dr. Hoang Hoa Hoi) Thailand: Creating awareness in Thailand (Dr. Temsak Phungrassami) NEW APHN partners (Dr Rosalie Shaw) Palliative care as a public health issue (Mary Callaway)
1100H				Oral 1 (Luzon) Oral 2 (Mindanao) Oral 3 (Mindoro) APHN Council Meeting (Negros Room)	Oral 1 (Luzon) Oral 2 (Mindanao) Oral 3 (Mindoro) APHN Council Meeting (Negros Room)	
1130H						**Closing Ceremonies** *(Luzon / Mindanao)*
1230H				JANSSEN LUNCH SYMPOSIUM (Luzon)	GOODFELLOW LUNCH SYMPOSIUM (Luzon)	**Hospice Visits** *(Limited places for Foreign Delegates)*
1330H				*Plenary Lecture 2* *(Luzon / Mindanao)* **Partnerships in Research** Research, evidence and policy imperatives: an Australian update (Prof. Margaret O'Connor) Benchmarking palliative care in the U.S.: quality and operations (Stephen Connor, Ph D)	*Plenary Lecture 4* *(Luzon / Mindanao)* **Partnerships in Non-Cancer Palliative Care** Partnerships in AIDS palliative care (Songhamitra Iyengar) Infectious disease and palliative care (Dr. Sue Marsden) Palliative care for non-cancer patients: focus on the elderly (Dr. Shelley dela Vega)	
1500H				Coffee Break Poster Presentation	Coffee Break Poster Presentation	
1530H				*Symposium 4* (Luzon) **Palliative Care Nursing** The Nurse as carer (Sr. Geraldine Tan) Is palliative care a specialist qualification? (Prof Deogracias Valderrama) The HOPE perspectives (Carmencita Abaquin) *Symposium 5* (Mindanao) **Caring for Carers** The power of hope (Liesa Groot-Alberts) Caring for carers: spiritual transformation from grief to celebration of life (Prof Cecilia Chan) Quality of life for caregivers (Geraldine Fasila) *Symposium 6* (Mindoro) **Complementary Therapies** The evidence for complementary alternative medicine (Leonila Dans) The interface between western and eastern medicine (Dr. Philip Tan)	*Symposium 9* (Luzon) **Bereavement** The journey of grief: the long term effects of grieving on the life story (Liesa Groot-Alberts) Grief assessment: who is at risk? (Dr. Agnes Bausa) The grief experience of families following the death of a child (Carol Quayle) *Symposium 10* (Mindanao) **Symptom Management** The place of holistic care in symptom management (Dr. Sue Marsden) Managing symptoms in a resource-poor setting (Dr. Noreen Chan) Empowering the family in symptom management (Dr Andrew Ang) *Symposium 11* (Mindoro) **Advocacy** Encouraging corporate sponsorships (David Praill) Winning over doctors (Dr. Cynthia Goh) Engaging governments (Stephen Connor, Ph D)	
1700H				Annual General Meeting Election for the 7th APHN (Luzon)	Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance (Negros Room)	
1900H				Speakers' Night (Seaside Wall, Sofitel Hotel)	Cultural Night (Luzon / Mindanao)	

ROUNDUP

Negros towns in calamity state

BACOLOD CITY—The towns of Villadolid and San Enrique in Negros Occidental were placed in a state of calamity due to floods brought by Typhoon "Goring."

Valladolid Mayor Romel Yogore said 770 families in 14 of the town's 16 barangays were displaced and housed at the health center and social welfare office.

San Enrique Vice Mayor Victoria de los Santos said about 5,000 families in 10 barangays were suffering from the floods' effects.

Sixty families were evacuated to the public market after the Cansunsing River overflowed, De los Santos said.

Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

Cashier found guilty of estafa

BACOLOD CITY—The Kabankalan City Regional Trial Court found a bank cashier guilty of misappropriating funds of the Rural Bank of Ilog-Hinobaan branch.

Judge Henry Arles found Mars Calamba guilty of estafa and sentenced her to imprisonment of four years and five months to 20 years.

He also ordered Calamba to indemnify the bank P324,878.23.

On May 11, 2001, Narciso Cañete, then manager of the bank, told the court he instructed Calamba to open the vault to count the money in her possession. Calamba answered yes but did not open the vault and left instead, Cañete said.

The vault was opened and yielded just P39,936.15 in cash.

Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

Cops told to nab drug lords

SAN JACINTO, Pangasinan—Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. ordered police to arrest all drug lords and illegal gambling operators in the province to "set an example to the whole country."

"We must show that we mean business," De Venecia said during the recent inauguration of a P4-million police station here.

He said the police should not only run after operators of the illegal numbers game "jueteng" but of other forms of illegal gambling.

The House of Representatives has appropriated P35 million for the construction of a drug rehabilitation hospital in Dagupan City, the Speaker said.

Gabriel Cardinoza and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Lingayen airport upgrading

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The provincial board has authorized Gov. Amado Espino Jr. to negotiate with qualified groups for the upgrading of the Lingayen airport and the establishment of a commercial seaport in Sual town.

In two resolutions, the board said the projects were necessary to propel the province into "greater heights of industrialization, and promote tourism and investments."

Board Member Romeo Dadacay, author of the resolutions, said the Lingayen airport was already in a "pitiful state, not having been adequately maintained and sorely lacking essential facilities and equipment."

Sual is an ideal place for a commercial seaport, he said.

Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Graft investigator slain

DAGUPAN CITY—An investigator of the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon was shot dead by motorcycle-riding men on Sept. 10 in San Fabian, Pangasinan, police said.

Lawyer Alejo Dojillo, 33, was aboard a tricycle on his way to a bus terminal at about 2:30 a.m. when he was shot, Senior Supt. Isagani Nerez, Pangasinan police director, said.

Nerez said Dojillo, also a summary hearing officer of the Ombudsman, was supposed to report to his head office in Metro Manila when he was attacked.

Dojillo suffered at least four bullet wounds in the back.

Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Cop killed, 3 hurt in Batangas

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A policeman was killed and three others, including a doctor, were wounded in a shooting inside a subdivision in Batangas City on Sept. 19.

City police chief Supt. Christopher Tambungan identified the lone fatality as PO2 Efren Ong, 35, of the San Jose municipal police. Wounded were Dr. Raul Mendoza, 50, Jonel Delgado, 24, and Crisanto Godoy, 52, all of Batangas City. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Gun falls, kills gov't worker

LUCENA CITY—A local government employee was killed late Sunday after his gun accidentally fired.

The employee was identified as Kennet Pura, 33, assigned to the Lucena City Engineer's Office and of Barangay Tongco, Tayabas City.

The victim's wife said Pura was cleaning his .38 cal, revolver inside the bedroom when the gun fell to the floor and fired, hitting him in the face. He died on the spot. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Cebu gov faces overprice probe

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—A PARTY-LIST group filed yesterday a complaint of graft and other violations against Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia for alleged irregularities in the construction of the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC).

In a complaint filed at the Ombudsman-Visayas office, Bayan Muna accused Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia of failing to make public the liquidation of CICC expenses despite repeated demands from the public sector.

Bayan Muna secretary general Armand Perez said Garcia had taken advantage of her position to prevent the disclosure of the actual amount of funds released for the CICC project.

Perez said the group decided to file the complaint so that the allegations of overpricing could be looked into.

Bayan Muna wrote a letter to Garcia's office on Feb. 28, asking for a report on how the CICC funds were disbursed. Its request was denied, Perez said.

"The passage of time only fuels the public clamor for transparency and accountability on the part of our elected officials," Bayan Muna said in the complaint.

Capitol officials earlier denied allegations that the CICC was overpriced and promised to disclose the actual amount of funds released for its construction.

The Ombudsman has started a fact-finding inquiry into the allegations of businessman Crisologo Saavedra, who claimed that the CICC cost close to P1 billion.

Ombudsman Director Virginia Santiago had earlier said her office had asked the Commission on Audit to furnish it a copy of the audit report on the CICC.

Santiago said she would evaluate Bayan Muna's complaint.

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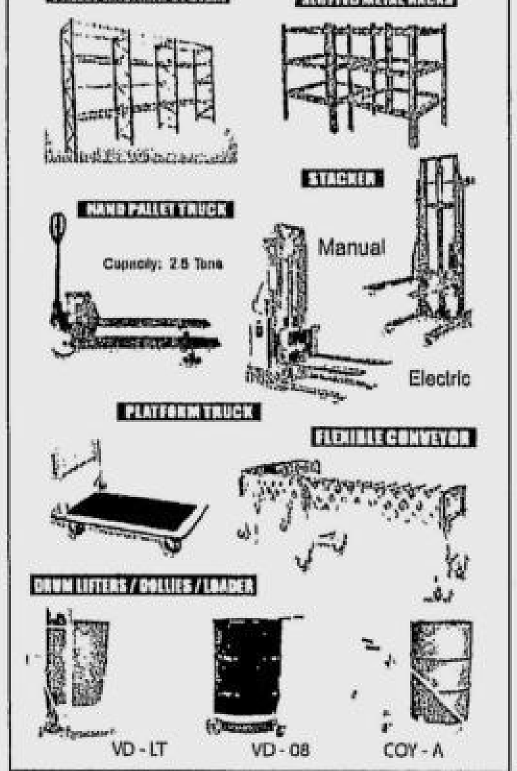
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La Union execs defend killing of stray dogs

BAUANG, LA UNION—OFFICIALS defended the town's move to kill stray dogs as proper, saying this was meant to protect the people and prevent the spread of rabies infection that has killed at least four residents this year.

"What we did was for the welfare of the people," Mayor Roberto de Guzman told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Monday.

De Guzman issued the statement following complaints from some residents about the way the local government handled the impounded dogs.

Stray dogs not claimed by their owners were shot and killed last week because they were already "wild" and could attack residents, he said.

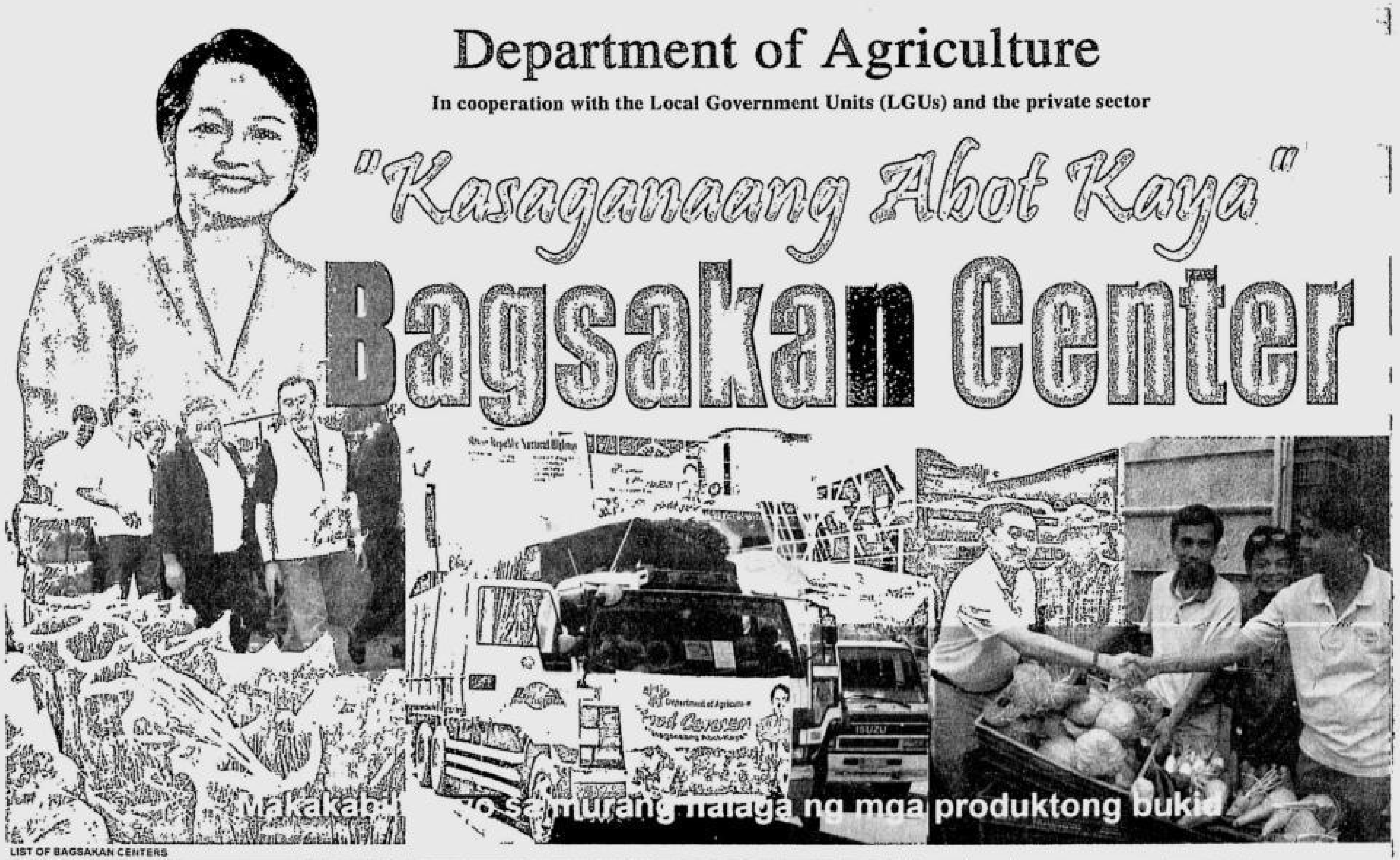
Bauang has an ordinance preventing dogs from straying. It penalizes erring dog owners P1,000.

Reports from the local government showed at least 110 residents had been bitten by dogs since January.

Earlier, Bauang officials placed the town under a state of calamity after they noted the rising number of people being bitten by rabid dogs.

Warren Tan, sales manager and training liaison head of Pet One, said about 3,000 dogs were vaccinated in 16 villages. His firm is helping in the vaccination.

De Guzman said a survey undertaken by the local government showed that the town had about 6,000 dogs. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*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Quezon City	Commonwealth	Commonwealth Ave., Bgy. Commonwealth, QC	Wilfredo "Boy" Aga, Sr.	428-4512
	Mega Q-Mart	Edsa, Bgy. E. Rodriguez, Cubao	Cornelio de Guzman	440-9332/412-1622
	Oriental Market	1182 EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	Manvic Infante	456-9498
Pasig	Mutya ng Pasig	Market Ave., Caruncho Complex	Catherine Tech	641-0434/640-1665
Valenzuela	KADIWA Center	Km. 60, McArthur Highway, Malanday, Valenzuela	Ernesto Lindo	294-0866/09175745293
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PMAP

The 44th PMAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

September 26-28, 2007 • Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City

People Management Association of the Philippines

MESSAGE

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Warmest greetings to the **People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP)** as you hold your *44th Annual Conference.*

Your theme, "People Deliver! Linking People and Results," shows your sincere efforts to equip resource management practitioners with the necessary tools to empower people, increase productivity, and pursue motivation., Through this conference you illustrate that people – not only companies or entities – are the only sustainable source of competitive advantage.

Our national agenda is designed to move our country toward greater political stability, economic prosperity, and peace and order. Our focus now is to bring the benefits of a strong economy to every Filipino even as we put in place the infrastructure needed to attract more investments, create more jobs, and beat poverty. I need the support of organizations like the PMAP to achieve this objective.

Mabuhay!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Philippines

* * *

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

I congratulate the **People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP)** on the occasion of its 44th Annual Conference on 26-28 September 2007 in Cebu City.

The Conference Theme that you have chosen for this year, "People Deliver! Linking People and Results", resounds with the same familiar vision and mission that PMAP had been so resolutely pursuing for more than four decades now: the continuing professionalization of the HRM discipline.

For this reason, the PMAP deserves commendation for its innovative effort in advancing the issue of people management and inspiring a higher level of appreciation of its importance in organizational effectiveness.

It is true that our modern society's social organization has come a long way in its transformation process. From the control-oriented management approach inspired by the industrial revolution, we have gone past the progressive decentralization era occasioned by the information age. And we are treading along the knowledge-worker age, and are finally looking at the wisdom-worker age just across the horizon.

The non-human components of our productive capacities would simply remain inert and useless without the all-important presence of human resource as the transformative agent in social production. This idea is surely what the PMAP seeks to emphasize and address in this Annual Conference.

May you have a truly fruitful 44th PMAP Annual Conference.

ARTURO D. BRION
Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment

* * *

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the **44th PMAP Annual Conference!**

This annual event is certainly a very significant milestone for the association, as we gather our country's best people managers in a three-day exercise of learning, sharing and fun. I am proud to have with us two-time Malcom Baldrige Award winner Dr. David F. Spong, our opening plenary speaker, as well as the country's best people managers and renowned resource speakers.

The 44th PMAP Annual Conference takes on the theme, "People Deliver! Linking People and Results", to give emphasis to the growing need of people focus in achieving business excellence. This theme is also an extension of PMAP's theme for the year of "Exploring Beyond. Delivering Results" in an effort of establishing the power of one's people in getting organizational results.

Inspired by our association's purpose of enabling people and organizations, this year's annual conference aspires to impart new trends, insights and techniques of managing and leading people in the hope of enhancing our country's competitiveness.

I encourage everyone to actively participate in the plenary sessions, discussions, workshops and fellowship activities, and take this opportunity to build your network of friends. It is my wish that you shall achieve the highest level of learning, emerge from this conference renewed and bring the best in each and everyone of us.

I congratulate everyone who has contributed to the success of this three-day event. The participation of each committee, the support of our sponsors, and the dedication of our professional staff have truly made this conference an achievement.

In behalf of our 2007 PMAP leadership team, I wish you an enjoyable, meaningful and fruitful Annual Conference!

Mabuhay ang PMAP!

MARQUEZ O. GO, FPM
PMAP President

* * *

Going beyond the axiom of "people are our best assets", the 44th PMAP Annual Conference with its theme **"People Deliver! Linking People and Results"** aims to serve as a reflection platform on paradigms, principles and practices of people management as a key to sustainable value creation and business success.

This conference highlights, for the first time, our association's new name from Personnel Management Association of the Philippines to the **People Management Association of the Philippines** by focusing on people as the core of growing business and enhancing national competitiveness. In the first 50 years of its existence, PMAP has succeeded in its basic objective of building a pool of professional human resource practitioners witnessed by the more than 1,000 delegates we expect to participate in this learning event. Beyond this original charter, PMAP envisions a vanguard role in ushering in the era of human capital in the country and playing a more proactive role in nation building. Through this conference, we hope to take the first steps in helping spread a mindset of linking strategies with sound people principles and practices. Recent research strongly indicate that competitive advantage no longer comes from just access to financial capital, new technology, size or resources but through organizational capabilities and committed people. The conference program tackles the challenge of providing learning opportunities on how to build organizational capabilities and strengthen people engagement and commitment. Furthermore, through the concurrent sessions, it also offers a sumptuous buffet of learning for all, from the novice to the more senior HR practitioner as well as for people managers in the line.

It is, therefore with great pride that I welcome you to the conference. May we all continue to practice and advocate people focus, not only in our respective organizations but in our families, communities and the nation as a whole.

ENRIQUE V. ABADESCO, FPM
PMAP Vice President
Annual Conference Chairperson

People Deliver!

Linking People and Results

Enrique V. Abadesco, FPM
PMAP Vice-President & Annual Conference Chair

The *"Knowledge Economy"* will usher in the golden era of human capital management, just as the customer revolution catalyzed the birth of the total quality movement, two decades ago.

In this globally competitive world where **continuous learning** becomes the key source of sustainable advantage, human resource practitioners will play a more prominent role in creating value and business success. The practice of HRM will become more and more strategic and the internalization of sound people paradigms and practices will become the guiding norm for leadership. **PMAP's vision is to play a vanguard role in ushering in the era of human capital in the country.** Hence, the theme and program of this annual conference bring to fore the role which PMAP intends to highlight in the next 50 years of its existence.

While the link between customer satisfaction and revenues is already a widely accepted axiom of business, the link between people and bottom-line results is still at best, a tenuous proposition. Unfortunately, the majority of small and medium-sized enterprises, which constitute the majority of businesses in the country, are still operating under a dysfunctional mental model of doing business. This mental model focuses on short term results and views people as a commodity expense and inevitably leads to a downward spiral in performance. To enhance national competitiveness, we need to redefine this business model.

Our annual conference themed, ***"People Deliver! Linking People and Results"***, is an initial step in helping spread a more sophisticated and competitive business model. Thus, the conference program will highlight recent research and best practices on the link between people-focused leadership systems, sound people practices and the creation of sustainable advantage.

Recent research strongly indicate that competitive advantage no longer comes from just access to capital, new technology, size or resources but through **organizational capabilities and sound people practices.** The Malcolm Baldrige Excellence Award and Criteria, the most prestigious recognition incentive for excellence in organizational performance underlines this thesis by advocating an integrated approach to visionary leadership, sound strategy, people focus and process excellence as the key to outstanding and sustainable results.

Our keynote speakers, David Spong of the Malcolm Baldrige Foundation and Jose Luis Romero Salas of TNT Worldwide Express, will share their experiences in bringing their organizations to new heights of performance through inspiring leadership and best-of-breed people practices. Twenty five (25) concurrent resource speakers will stimulate reflection and learning on principles and practices of HRM and people management approaches, based on their experiences and insights.

A CEO forum followed by a World Café session (an innovative strategic dialogue approach) will link human capital practice with PMAP's nation-building advocacy. The closing "Learning in Concert" event will cap the conference with an inspirational talk by Ms. Imee Roberts, an HRM practitioner in the United States and 2006 recipient of the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

The underlying theme behind all the learning sessions is best summed up by Geoff Armstrong, the former President of the World Federation of Personnel Management who said: *"If you are in the business of making profits, you are in the people business. You build people who bring in the profits."*

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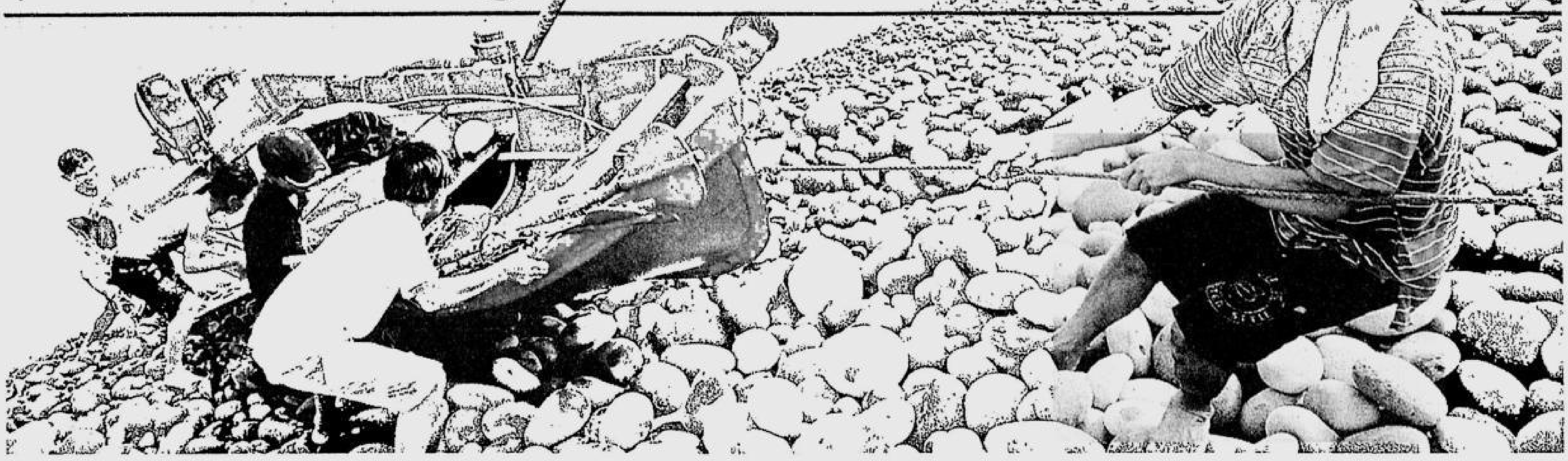


YOUNG men are given the chance to help drag the "tatayak" to shore because of a myth that prohibiting them from participating in this task would cost them their lives.

'Tatayak' making keeps Ivatan seafarers alive

Text and photos by EV Espiritu
Itbayat, Batanes

NO MORE IVATAN WARRIORS exist today to chant the ancient *"rawod,"* the stories about their seafarers that are passed down to generations.

The *"rawod"* chants are tales of high adventure woven out of the mythical journey that the Ivatan forefathers undertook to escape a disaster.

An excerpt, translated by the University of Georgia and attributed to Simina Vohang, illustrates how a "giant flood" battered their ancestors' boats: "We were on a big boat all kinsmen/In a big boat, sailing on the open sea/We almost reached our island/But the ocean prevented us from sailing home ..."

In a comparative study, University of Georgia scholars said no living person had accurate recollection of how each syllable of the *"rawod"* must be pronounced.

But every time Julian Ponce Jr. builds a *"tatayak,"* a type of native boat, this mythic journey is always revisited.

To ordinary eyes, a *"tatayak"* looks like an ordinary sailboat but it uses wooden pegs instead of nails and is shaped according to how the Ivatan ancestors prescribed centuries ago.

JULIAN Ponce Jr. (left) with a worker.

The Ivatan people are skilled seamen because they live off the sea.

But Ponce, a boat maker in the village of Mayan in Itbayat, Batanes, admits to visitors that he does not even know how to swim.

Ivatan heritage

Yet he and a few community artisans maintain what is perhaps the only Ivatan heritage left in this island province.

Ponce said his poor skills as a seafarer did not prevent him from understanding why the *"tatayak"* remains vital to sustaining Batanes' economy.

Faustina Cano, a retired teacher of the Itbayat National Agricultural High School, said: "The current population of Itbayat is composed of those who could not go to school, our children, a few professionals who found jobs running our municipal government and our elderly."

Ponce said these were people who would not be able to buy their own boats that were vital to fishing so their daily meals would be assured.

First 'tatayak'

Ponce said it took him three months to put together his first *"tatayak,"* which legend describes as a vehicle that slices through the largest ocean waves with ease.

He said he was able build a respectable trade within five years, but only because he remained loyal to the way his ancestors built their vessels.

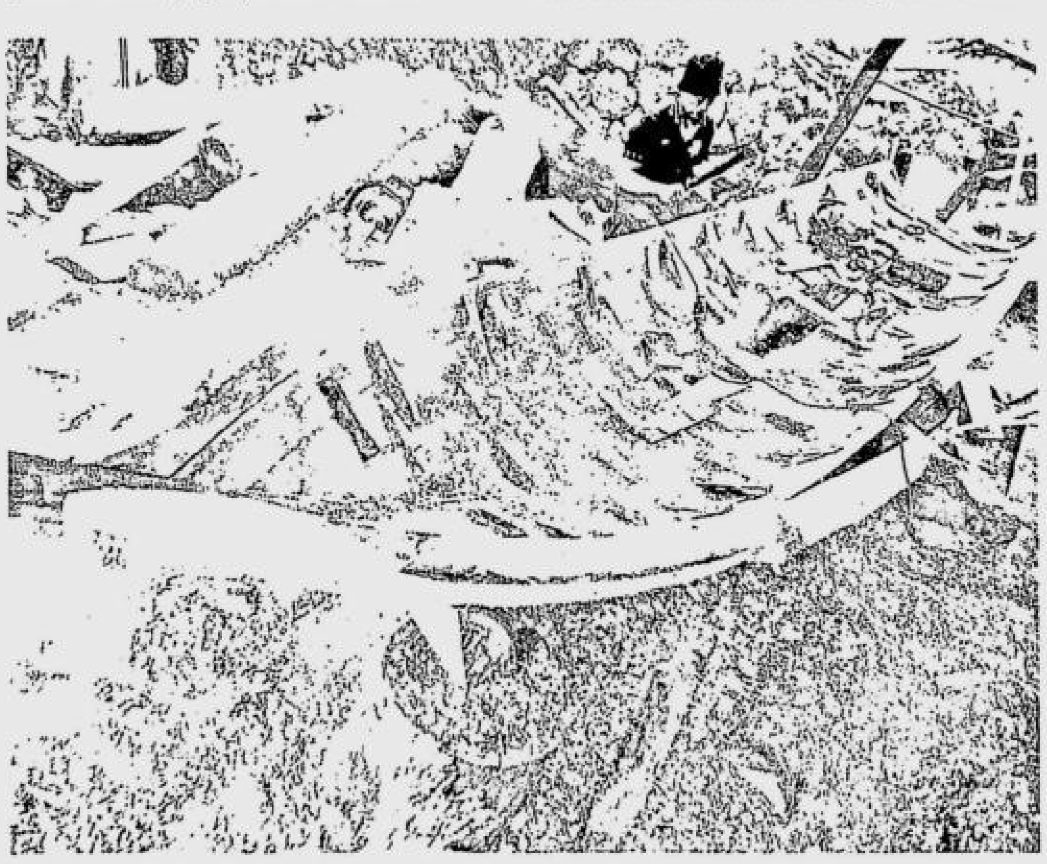
Each *"tatayak"* must be made of the expensive *"vayuy"* (wood) or the cheaper alternatives called the *"bataraw," "alimbasaw"* and *"aryus,"* the so-called century tree.

Each panel is carved out of the tree, and he sold a four-meter-long and a meter-wide *"tatayak"* for P20,000. He can also build a seven-meter long boat for P120,000.

Ponce said he could produce six *"tatayak"* each year.

In 2006, another villager learned the trade and has been producing the boat out of fiberglass.

But they do not compete. As long as Batanes thrives in marine life, the *"tatayak"* will continue to sail its waters, Ponce said.



A WORKER builds a "tatayak," an ancient Ivatan boat, without using nails.

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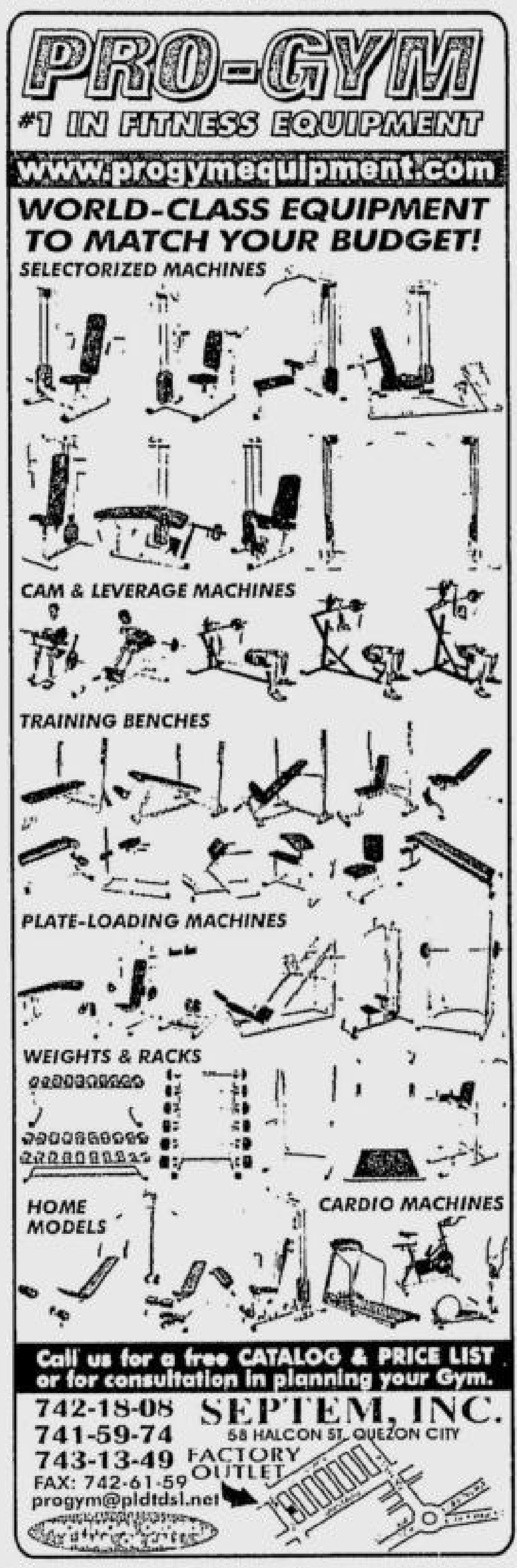

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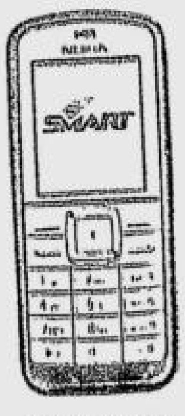
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NBI, MPD findings differ on girl slay victim

Fingerprint, dental, DNA results are parameters, says forensic expert

By Allison W. Lopez

ONE BODY, CONTRADICTORY findings.

The medico-legal chief of the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday confirmed a report that the hymen of the young girl—believed to be rape-slay victim Geraldine Palma—was intact, contrary to the findings of the Manila Police District.

"I told Mr. (Gerald) Palma (Geraldine's father) that the cadaver that I autopsied had no vaginal lacerations. But I did not say that the girl was Geraldine, because scientifically, there is no basis for me to say that," forensic expert Dr. Renato Bautista said.

At the same time, however, he clarified that just because there was no penetration, it does not mean that no rape occurred.

His findings were contrary to the results of an autopsy conducted by his counterpart at the Manila Police District, medico-legal officer Dr. Romeo Salen.

According to Salen, the victim was raped because of the numerous lacerations found in her private part.

Experience

Bautista's experience includes working in past high profile cases such as the stampede at the Philsports Arena (formerly Ultra) and the landslide in Southern Leyte.

Sought for comment, Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling, MPD homicide division chief, said he stood by Salen's findings.

He added that he had already spoken to Bautista who told him that he was not ruling out the possibility that the victim had been raped.

Palma, a 7-year-old student of St. Paul College, disappeared with her nanny, Marites Ontog, last month. A few days after she was reported missing, the body of a girl stuffed inside a suitcase was found in Tondo, Manila.

The body was believed to be that of Palma after her parents, Gerald and Felma, came forward and identified her as their daughter.

The body was exhumed the other day after the MPD raised doubts that it was Palma's. Based on her school records, she measured only 3 feet and 8 inches. The girl found in the suitcase was several inches taller.

Bautista also confirmed yesterday that the exhumed body was 4 feet and .08 inches tall. He pointed out usually, the muscles contract after death so a person becomes smaller. "But in some instances, there could be an increase in height due to bloating," he added.

Bautista, however, quickly stressed that height discrepancies were "poor indicators" of identity unless the difference was remarkable.

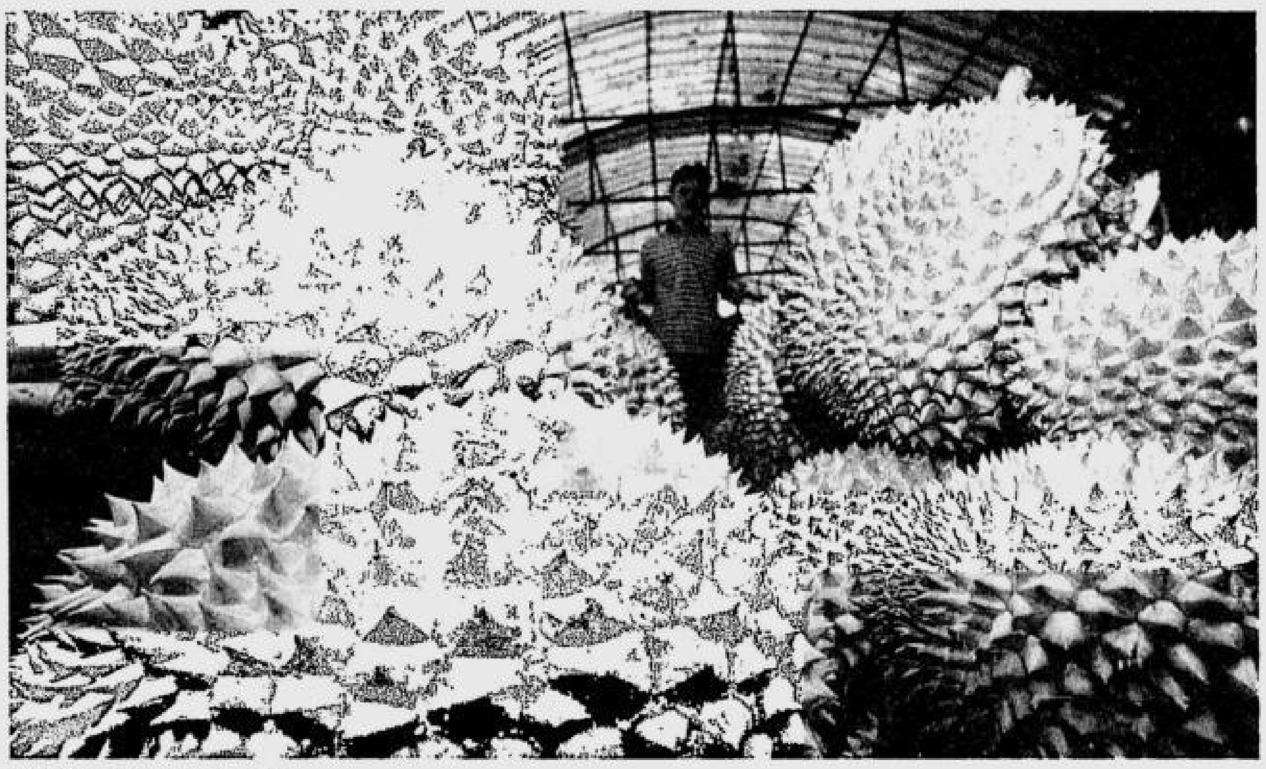
"It's a standard operating procedure but it's nothing. I'm not going to use that as a parameter," he said. "We are going to use three basic parameters: Fingerprint, dental results and DNA."

The tests are being conducted by a 12-man team from the medico-legal, chemistry, dental, dactyloscopy (fingerprint) and crime photography divisions.

Bautista said that a match in one of the three parameters was already "sufficient." He added that the results would be released in about a month's time.

Yanquiling, meanwhile, said they were looking into the case of Jessalyn Salvatierra, a 12-year-old girl from Tondo, who disappeared at about the same time as Palma.

Salvatierra was last seen on Aug. 12 in her school uniform, a white blouse and maroon skirt.



DURIAN, DURIAN

JOAN BONDOC

People hankering for durian no longer have to go to faraway Mindanao to buy the exotic fruit. Durian, which many say smells like hell but tastes like heaven, sells for P80 a kilo at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City.

'Dry' weekend in store for Quezon City residents

By Amy Remo

IT WILL BE A "DRY" WEEKEND FOR RESIDENTS in some areas in Quezon City.

The Maynilad Water Services Inc. yesterday said in a statement that there will be low water pressure or no water for 12 hours in certain areas in the city from 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, until 9 a.m. the following day.

Areas without water are Barangays San Jose, Manresa, St. Peter, Maharlika, Amoranto, Lourdes, Paang Bundok, Salvacion and Damar Village.

On the other hand, Barangays Teresita, San Isidro Labrador and Doña Josefa will experience low water pressure or will not have water at all.

Maynilad said the water interruption was due to maintenance activities it was carrying out at the D. Tuazon Pumping Station in Quezon City.

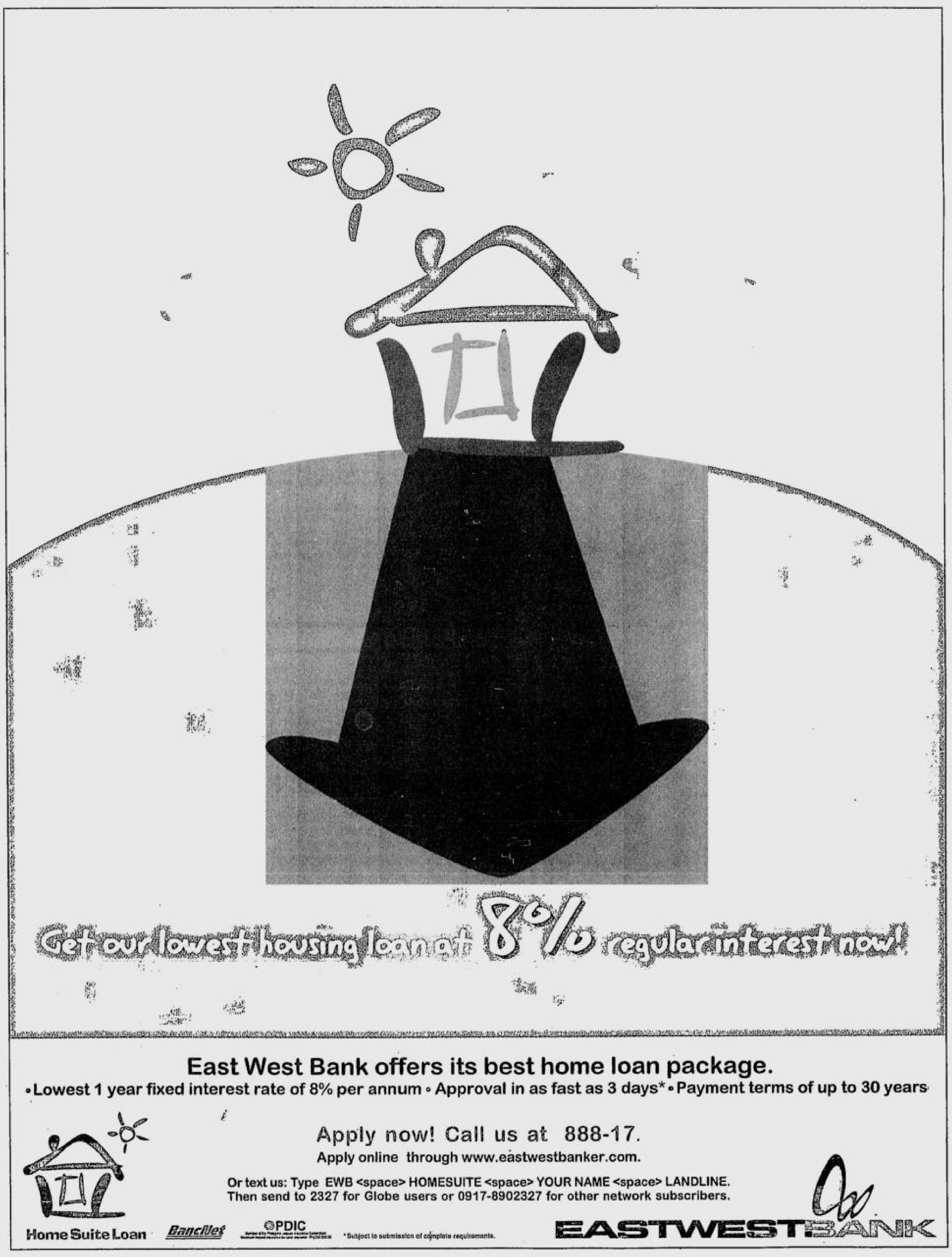
The repair and maintenance works are part of its continuing program to upgrade and improve its service to customers, it added.

It advised customers in affected areas to store enough water for the weekend or to call the Maynilad Water hotline 1626 or 4362000, or text Maynilad 2898.

DID YOU KNOW

IN THE FIRST half of 2007, the average occupancy rate of Metro Manila's nine first class hotels which are accredited by the tourism department was 77.15 percent. Guests stayed for an average of 2.30 nights. The nine hotels are the CSB International Conference Center, Diamond Hotel Philippines, Discovery Suites, Great Eastern Hotel, Manila Pavilion Hotel, The Linden Suites Hotel, The Pearl Manila Hotel, The Richmonde Hotel and Traders Hotel Manila.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research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Antonio Leviste pretrial conference scheduled today in Makati City court

By DJ Yap

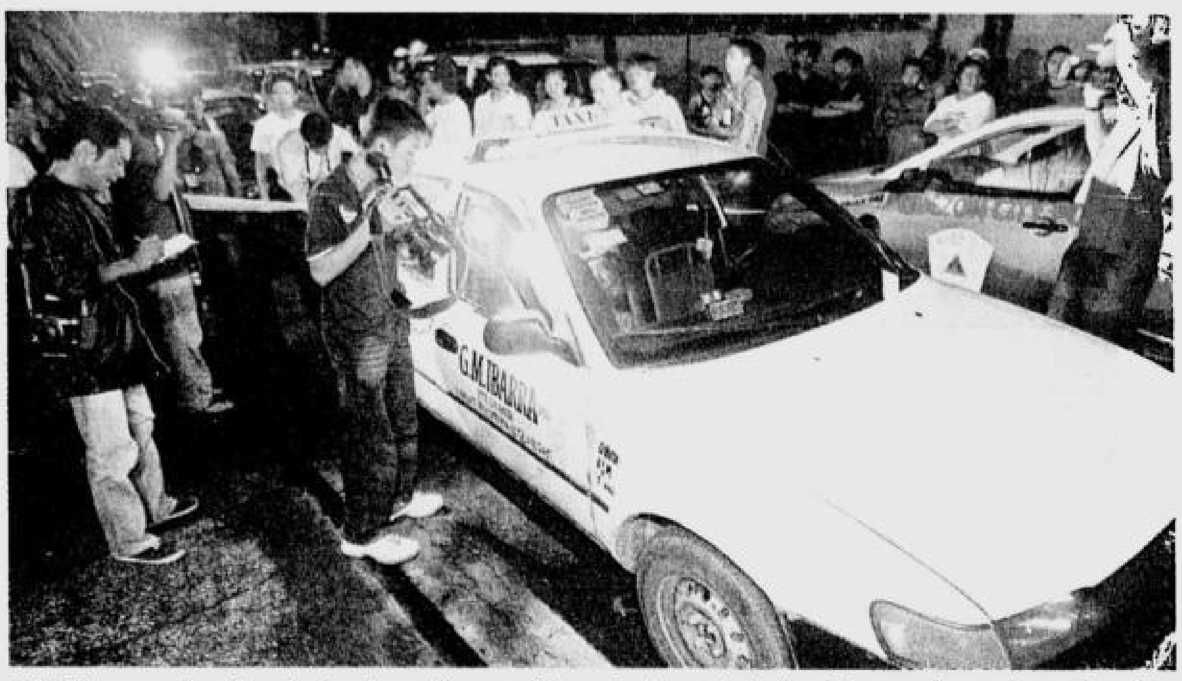
A MAKATI COURT WILL HOLD today the pretrial conference of the murder case involving former Batangas Gov. Jose Antonio Leviste to thresh out legal matters before going to trial.

The pretrial, under the rules of court, involves a discussion on the possibility of a plea bargain, stipulation of facts, marking for identification of evidence and waiver of objections to admissibility of evidence, among other things. Judge Elmo Alameda of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150 earlier said the proceeding was intended to consider "the possibility of plea bargaining, and to assist the parties in reaching a settlement of the civil aspect of the case."

But the contending parties said in earlier interviews that a plea bargain was unnecessary, with the defense insisting on Leviste's innocence and the prosecution confident it could prove his guilt.

Leviste was accused of killing his long-time aide, Rafael de las Alas Jan. 12 inside his office at the LPL Tower in Legaspi Village, Makati City. The former Batangas governor, however, claimed he was just defending himself. Almeda later granted Leviste's petition to post bail, saying the prosecution failed to present sufficient evidence that Leviste's guilt was strong.

The judge later junked the prosecution's motion appealing the grant of bail, although he clarified that the case against Leviste remained a murder case, and not homicide.



MEDIA men and curious bystanders mill around the cab where the body of Ernesto Aparecio was found in Project 4, Quezon City.

RAFFY LERMA

Doctor in Mendez slay case could face obstruction of justice raps, says NBI

By Allison W. Lopez

OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE charges could be filed against the doctor who brought alleged hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez to a hospital if he fails to appear at the agency on Friday, the National Bureau of Investigation said.

NBI-Anti Terrorism Division chief Romulo Asis said they had no other recourse but to file the charges in the Quezon City prosecutor's office next week against Dr. Francisco Cruz, an ophthalmologist at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, if he still ignored their "third and final" subpoena.

Apart from bringing the 20-year-old graduating college student to the VMMC in Quezon City on Aug. 27, Asis said it was also Cruz who gave his approval to the hospital to release Mendez's body to the St. Peter funeral parlor.

"He's a medical doctor. He should have known that in medico-legal cases like these, the police should have been notified," he stressed.

"He does not follow the subpoena and and he does not want to come out in the open so he doesn't want to tell us what he knows," said Asis, who added that they were also considering filing a case against Cruz in the Professional Regulation Commission.

The Sigma Rho fraternity has been alluded to as the group Mendez, a public administration major, reportedly tried to join.

Driver found dead inside cab could be robbery victim, says QC police

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

THE BODY OF A TAXI DRIVER believed to be a robbery victim was found inside his vehicle after midnight yesterday in Project 4, Quezon City.

Victor Twano, a resident of Barangay Bagong Buhay, told the police that he was on his way home at around 2 a.m. when he saw a man sprawled on the back seat of a taxi.

The cab was parked in front of a house on Magat Salamat Street.

Investigators from the Quezon City Police District Station 8 later identified the victim as Ernesto Aparecio, 62, a resident of Dahlia Street, Amparo Capri in Novaliches, Quezon City.

Aparencio's throat had been slit while there were cuts in his head, arms and hands, indications that he could have fought it out with his attackers, the police added.

The driver's wallet and cellular phone were also missing, prompting the police to suspect that he was a robbery victim.

Police said they were looking for witnesses to the incident.

SPD steps up anticrime drive as Yule season nears

By Julie M. Aurelio

NEWLY INSTALLED SOUTHERN Police District director, Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman, has ordered his men to step up their monitoring of criminal and terrorist groups with Christmas just a few months away.

Ticman said he recently met his key officers in a command conference and instructed them to be in top shape for the holidays. "I told the men to improve their performance by at least a notch higher, particularly with the advent of the Yuletide season," the official told the INQUIRER.

Ticman took over the SPD last week from Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales, who now heads the Manila Police District.

"Intelligence reports gathering will play a big role in our anticriminality and antiterrorism campaigns, complementing the regular deployments and police visibility," Ticman said.

Changes

Asked about any possible movements within the district, he replied: "I'm giving my key officers a chance to prove their worth. We'll make changes in the future as the situation demands."

The SPD covers the cities of Makati, Pasay, Taguig, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas and Parañaque, as well as the lone municipality of Pateros.

Ticman earlier said he would continue the projects Rosales left behind.

"Those projects will do a lot of good for the district. I will surely enhance the good things he (Rosales) initiated. It will make my job a lot easier," he added. Among these projects is the "Be Smart" text hotline for complaints, reports or distress calls about ongoing crimes in the area.

Those who want to send a text message should type the words "SPD HELP" followed by the message and send it to 269. The number applies to both Smart and Globe subscribers.

Another project is the month-long joint training exercise between 30 selected SPD cops and law enforcers in Butte County, California.

Rosales was about to draft the terms of agreement for the project following initial talks with United States police officials when he was transferred to the MPD.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
PCA ENVIRO SOLUTION CORP. U-309 Prestige Tower, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Youri Seo Korean	Administrative and Finance Officer
PCA ENVIRO SOLUTION CORP. U-309 Prestige Tower, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Boksool Seo Korean	General Manager
UNITED PHILIPPINES DRILLING CO. INC. U 818 Pioneer Highlands South Condo., Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City	Benny Dingus Papua New Guinean	Driller Supervisor
UNITED PHILIPPINES DRILLING CO. INC. U 818 Pioneer Highlands South Condo., Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City	Felix Walter Papua New Guinean	Driller Supervisor
UNITED PHILIPPINES DRILLING CO. INC. U 818 Pioneer Highlands South Condo., Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City	Watson Daniel Dingus Papua New Guinean	Driller Supervisor
PIC N PAC MART INC. 1602 M. Adriatico St., Malate, Manila	Junlian Hong Chinese	Marketing Researcher
KOREAN AIRLINES CO., LTD. 124 G/F LPL Plaza Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Hong Jin Korean	Regional Manager
CHINA STATE (PHILS.) CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING CORPORATION 31/F Unit 3102 Orient Square Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Xiangyang Wang Chinese	Civil Engineer
ARCHEAN MINING CORPORATION 1040 Algeciras St., Sampaloc, Manila	Xiaojin Shi Chinese	Consultant
MC CONNELL DOWELL PHILIPPINES, INC. Suite 706 Richville Corporate Centre, 1341 Commerce Ave. Extension, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Colin George Jenner New Zealand	Country Manager
ANNTAYLOR SOURCING FAR EAST LTD. 8/F Skyplaza, Oledan Square, 6788 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Sunhwa Lee (wife of CHA) Korean	Merchandising Manager
DONG HAN PHILS. INC. U-102 Commerce Ave., Central Park #146 Amang Rodriguez Ave., Manggahan, Pasig City	Yong Bong Hyun Korean	Subcon Manager
ICT MARKETING SERVICES OF ASIA PACIFIC PTE LTD. 19/F RCBC Plaza Tower 2, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Stephen Blaine Gambrel American	Group Vice President

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

for
RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI–September 26, 2007)

Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(ZAMCELCO)
Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO) at Putik, this city per requisite under Board Policies on Pre-Qualifications, and Bids and Awards, invites ALL interested Bidders/Suppliers to bid for the supply of the following electrical materials/equipment/items, to wit:

No	Quantity	Unit	Item Description
1	36	SETS	PSION HANDHELD COMPUTER 2MB RAM SERIAL BOTTOM TYPE WITH EXTECH THERMAL PRINTER 3000T THS SERIES WITH COMPLETE ACCESSORIES CABLE, BATTERY, ADOPTOR, ETC. NOTE: AGENCY PRICE P 92,000.00/SET
2	4	SETS	PSION HANDHELD COMPUTER 2MB RAM SERIAL BOTTOM TYPE WITH MINI SERIAL PRINTER III WITH COMPLETE ACCESSORIES CABLE, BATTERY ADOPTOR, ETC. NOTE: AGENCY PRICE P92,000.00/SET

DELIVERY PERIOD WITHIN 30 DAYS AND PAYABLE WITHIN 12 MONTHS PERIOD AND PAYMENT STARTS ON JANUARY 2008.

You may secure the Pre-qualification Requirements from the office of the Finance Department, ZAMCELCO Complex in Putik, this city anytime during office hours and submit the same upon completion of all requirements thereof.

Submission of the Pre-qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 pm of **September 25, 2007** and no documents appertaining thereto, shall be accepted thereafter, UPON PAYMENT OF A NON-REFUNDABLE FEE OF FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) ONLY.

All applicants will be duly notified as to the results of the pre-qualification eligibility process. Only those who are pre-qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding. A post-qualification may be conducted accordingly hereafter.

Bidding will be conducted on **October 2, 2007**.

Sealed bid in duplicate copies should be submitted to the Committee on Bids and Awards at the Office of the Finance Department at the above-mentioned address on or before 2:00 p.m, of **October 2, 2007**. Five percent (5%) Bidder's Bond is required as a matter of policy.

The right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the coop is hereby reserved as an absolute prerogative of ZAMCELCO.

(Sgd.) REINERIO R. RAMOS
General Manager

(PDI–Sept. 25 & 26, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
EMB Building, DENR Compound, Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: 920-22-40/42
Email: emb@emb.gov.ph
Visit us at http://www.emb.gov.ph

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)** of the **NICKEL MINING PROJECT** of the **CENTURY PEAK CORPORATION** to be located at the Brgy. Panamaon, Loreto, Dinagat Province

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed **Nickel Mining Project** of **Century Peak Corporation** to attend a **Public Hearing** on Oct. 12, 2007, 9:00 AM at the Brgy. Panamaon Hall, Loreto, Dinagat Province.

This Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should first register in person or by mail with the **EMB at DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City** c/o Engr. Esperanza A. Sajul Officer-in-charge of the EIAM Division or with the **EMB Region XIII with Office address at 3rd Floor Gorme Bldg., Langihan Road, Butuan City**, or at the public hearing itself.

Individual and/or organizations may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper submitted to the EMB Central Office and/or Region XIII on or before Oct. 12, 2007.

For more details, please contact the EIA Division of EMB Central Office through For. Mark Saclag or Engr. Marivic Yao at telephone numbers 920-2240 to 42.

(PDI–Sept. 23 & 26, 2007)

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2 armed men rob employee on way to bank with ₱259,000

By Jeannette I. Andrade

FOUR MOTORCYCLE-RIDING men held up a 34-year-old remittance agent of P259,000 in cash yesterday morning in Quezon City.

Arnulfo Sagun, an employee of the Daniel Remittance Center in Philand Village, Barangay Pasong Tamo, was in a tricycle on his way to deposit the money at the Equitable PCI bank branch in Barangay Bahay Toro, Project 8 when he was waylaid by the suspects.

Quezon City Police District Station 3 operatives said the incident happened near Cherry Foodarama on Congressional Avenue.

Before the incident, Sagun reportedly withdrew money from the Metrobank branch in Visayas Avenue for deposit at Equitable-PCI bank. On his way, two men on separate motorcycles blocked his path and trained their pistols on him, prompting him to hand over the money.

The suspects fled with the loot while the victim immediately sought police assistance.

METROBRIEFS

Hefty fine for litterbugs in Valenzuela City

TO SHOW that the city government is serious in the implementation of the antilittering law, it will impose a P250,000 fine on violators, Valenzuela Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian said yesterday. According to the mayor, they wanted to strengthen their campaign against littering through Executive Order No. 2007-008 which is patterned after a Metropolitan Manila Development Authority regulation which prohibits littering, dumping and the throwing of any kind of waste in open or public places. Gatchalian said that anyone caught dumping garbage would be sued by the local government and asked to pay a fine of P10,000 to P250,000. They also face imprisonment of 30 days to three years.

Nancy Carvajal

4 men arrested for robbing jeep passengers

THE MARIKINA City Police arrested on Monday night four men, including three teenagers, accused of robbing jeepney passengers. Supt. Sotero Ramos, city police chief, identified the suspects as Pio Taway, 22; Rolando Lagunoy, 18; Danilo Aruta, 19; and a 16-year-old boy. All four were residents of Santan Street in Barangay Fortune, Marikina City, and had been involved in holdup robberies before, the police said. The four were arrested based on the complaints of three students. According to the police report, the suspects were arrested at about 9:30 p.m. on Monday after the victims went to the police to report that they had been robbed. Police said the jeepney the victims were riding in was traveling on Ordonez Street, Barangay Concepcion II when the suspects, armed with knives and a gun, declared the heist. Arresting officers recovered knives and a .9 mm toy gun from the suspects which they claimed were used in the robbery-holdup.

Kristine L. Alave

8 persons nabbed for selling unregistered drugs

EIGHT persons were arrested recently by the National Bureau of Investigation for allegedly selling unregistered Chinese drugs worth P100,000. NBI Director Nestor Mantaring identified the suspects as Kathleen Yusooncho, Fernando Cheng and Anette Jacinto of Shuang Ying Chinese drugstore on Bustos Street, Sta. Cruz; Marieta Lumindas, Cheong Yet Wong, Wong Alexander of Century Care Cosmetics Collection on Rizal Avenue, Quiapo; and Anathalia de las Alas and Peter Lao of Min Seng Chinese drugstore on Ronquillo Street, Sta. Cruz. Aside from selling unregistered products, the NBI said that the three drugstores had no licenses to "operate as distributor and/or importer of any products under the Bureau of Food and Drug jurisdiction." The NBI-Special Task Force led by head agent Arnel Dalumpines conducted the surveillance and test buys and secured certifications from the BFAD that proved the unlawful sale and distribution of the unregistered Chinese products. The eight suspects were charged at the Department of Justice for violations of Sec. 4 of Republic Act No. 8203 (Special law on counterfeit drugs) and RA 3720 (Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act).

Allison W. Lopez

WORLDBRIEFS

Whatever, Musharraf will remain boss

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—President Gen. Pervez Musharraf will stay on as Army chief if he is not reelected, a government lawyer said on Tuesday, as the Supreme Court prepared for a ruling that could decide the fate of his bid for another presidential term. Musharraf, a close US ally who seized power in a 1999 coup, has pledged to step down as military chief and restore civilian rule if lawmakers give him another five-year mandate in a ballot on Oct. 6. At a Supreme Court hearing, a judge asked Attorney General Malik Mohammed Qayyum what would happen if Musharraf was not reelected. Qayyum said Musharraf's position was that under the law, if "I am not elected, then I will remain chief of Army staff." *AP*

PM urged to quit over cash gifts

DUBLIN, IRELAND—Prime Minister Bertie Ahern should resign over cash payments he admits receiving from businessmen, an Irish opposition leader declared on Tuesday. Labor Party leader Eamon Gilmore said Ahern's explanations for the secret payments he received in the mid-1990s were contradictory, at odds with bank records and implausible. Ahern concluded four days of testimony to a corruption tribunal investigating ill-documented sources of more than euro100,000 ($140,000) in cash that Ahern lodged into newly opened bank accounts in 1994 and 1995. Ireland's parliament reconvenes on Wednesday to debate the issue. *AP*

Russia, China find democracy difficult

WASHINGTON—Russia and China, regional powers trying to restore Cold War-size importance to their roles in the world, are having a difficult time leaving the path of authoritarian government, a Freedom House analysis says. The study describes Russia's procedures as "a model of governance that denies basic political rights and shuns democratic accountability." China, according to the analysis, has so far had a harder time mollifying a Chinese populace eager for more of the good things their open economy has brought. The findings are in the annual "Countries at the Crossroads" report, Freedom House's analysis and comparative data on 60 "critical, policy-relevant countries." *AP*

Ex-president first to sing at new opera hall

BEIJING—Former Chinese President Jiang Zemin, a longtime opera buff, has become the first soloist to perform at the capital's new opera house, according to a Hong Kong newspaper. The retired political leader and amateur vocalist visited the National Grand Theater last week and sang parts of a Western opera and a Peking opera for theater staff. "Mr. Jiang was very happy and satisfied with the theater and sang a few songs during the visit," the South China Morning Post quoted an unidentified source as saying. *AP*

Orangutan fights tourist for backpack

KUALA LUMPUR—An orangutan at a wildlife sanctuary fought with a French tourist for her backpack, leaving her bruised and scratched, an official said Tuesday. Odile Nordon, 24, was taking photographs of Delima, a female orangutan roaming free in Malaysia's Semenggoh Wildlife Center on Borneo island on Sunday, when the animal grabbed at the backpack. Nordon, who managed to keep her backpack, said she thought orangutans were "friendly, cuddly creatures." "It's a painful lesson to find out the truth," she said. *AP*

Fukuda elected Japan premier

REUTERS

FUKUDA bows after his election as Japan's prime minister on Tuesday.

TOKYO—YASUO FUKUDA, A quiet compromiser who has promised to bring stability and moderation to Japan's tumultuous political scene, was elected prime minister by parliament on Tuesday.

The lower house of parliament voted for Fukuda, but then the upper house supported the top opposition leader, Ichiro Ozawa. After a conference committee meeting between the two chambers, the lower house officially declared Fukuda the winner.

The vote thrust Fukuda, 71, into the difficult job of battling calls for snap elections, negotiating with a resurgent opposition, and rebuilding the hobbled ruling Liberal Democratic Party left behind by his nationalist predecessor, Shinzo Abe.

"The situation surrounding the LDP is very severe, and we face difficulty in keeping the government under control without cooperation from all party members," Fukuda told reporters after the election.

Fukuda's Cabinet was to be announced later Tuesday.

Fukuda's first order of business will be winning passage of legislation extending Japan's naval mission in the Indian Ocean in support of US-led forces in Afghanistan. The opposition, which controls the upper house, has vowed to defeat it.

In the vote for prime minister, Fukuda garnered 338 ballots in the lower house, many more than the 239 needed for a majority. His closest competitor was Ozawa, the leader of the opposition Democratic Party of Japan, with 117 votes.

It was the first time since 1998 that the chambers had split in choosing a prime minister.

Fukuda, whose father Takeo Fukuda served as prime minister from 1976 to 1978, has pledged to keep Japan as a strong US ally in the fight against terrorism, improve relations with Asia, and address growing inequalities in the world's second-largest economy.

The lower house vote came hours after Abe, 53, emerged from a hospital—where he has been since Sept. 13 after announcing he would quit—to dissolve his Cabinet and formally resign after only a year in office.

On Monday, Fukuda tapped the heads of three internal LDP factions that had supported him for top party posts, immediately triggering criticism from the opposition that he was rewarding allies with no regard for policy.

The opposition on Tuesday showed no signs of backing off its intention to use its majority in the upper house to block the Afghan measure, despite Fukuda's vow to push for negotiations in search of a compromise.

Abe stunned the nation when he announced on Sept. 12 that he wanted to quit, and checked into a hospital the following day for unspecified stress-related abdominal complaints. He told reporters on Monday that he quit because of ailing health. *AP*

Malaysia probes video on judicial graft

KUALA LUMPUR—THE MALAYSIAN government on Tuesday appointed an independent panel to investigate the authenticity of a video clip allegedly showing a prominent lawyer brokering the appointment of top judges.

The three-member panel, consisting of two former senior judges and a social activist, will began work soon and is expected to finish its investigation within weeks, Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak told reporters.

The video clip, released last week by opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, has triggered speculation about corruption and alleged abuse of power in the appointment of judges.

The decision to appoint the panel "was taken considering that the accusations and speculations made in connection with the recording could raise doubts about the credibility and integrity of the country's judicial system," Najib said.

The panel will present its findings to the government, which will make them public.

Anwar showed the video to reporters, saying he obtained it from an anonymous source who secretly shot the clip at the lawyer's house in 2002.

The video shows the lawyer talking on his mobile phone and identifying the person on the other end as a senior judge.

The lawyer allegedly talks about how he helped get the judge appointed to his current post and discusses plans to elevate him further with the help of a tycoon and a senior politician. A number of prominent judges are also named during the conversation. *AP*

Utilizing Technology to Inspire and Bring Out the Best in People

When does one become a powerhouse? Is it when you have accumulated the most wealth among your contemporaries or is it when you have found the elixir of life that will keep you happy and youthful for the rest of your life? Ardy Roberto is one such person who is indeed a powerhouse in all senses of the word. He is a source of power, motivational force and inspiration to many people.

Ardy, together with his wife, Tingting, is the co-founder and Chief Encouragement Officer (CEO) of Salt & Light Ventures, Inc. They are the only learning event organizers to have won both local and international awards for the seminars and conferences that they have produced and marketed. Their most notable achievement includes a grand Anvil Award for putting together the 2004 John Maxwell Live! In Manila -- the largest, most successful back-to-back leadership learning event ever produced in Philippine history with over 17,000 leaders in attendance. The latest achievement was being awarded "Most Inspiring Entrepreneur" award by Microsoft among the Entrepreneur Magazine batch of Top 10 Entrepreneurs of 2006. He is also the CEO of Inspire Leadership Consultancy Inc. the sole license holders of John Maxwell's and Zig Ziglar's training programs. Other than this, Ardy is an author, book publisher and column writer.

Ardy has discovered the rewards of being techno-savvy, which he considers an important part of being an innovative entrepreneur. "I find fulfillment and joy in creating new business ventures, and technology has always been a constant tool for adapting to the changes in the world of enterprise. Technology is a big part of my personal and business life. Without it, I guess I'd feel like an amputee. I use technology the minute I wake up. I check my schedule for the day and the week on my Outlook. My notes and long term goals and vision are also stored in my outlook so that I can read it everyday."

He cites Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2007 a very useful tool in teaching and empowering others. "I've conducted seminars for NGOs on how to use integrated marketing to propel a successful fund-raiser and my presentation helped them a lot in understanding the concepts involved. I like the way concepts come alive with PowerPoint. It makes communicating and learning easier and more interactive."

Our facilitators and speakers all use PowerPoint 2007 to present their concepts and principles at our seminars.

The 2007 Office system is the latest line of productivity suites from Microsoft. It features a redesigned user interface (UI) that makes it easier for people to get better results faster. It enables users to get tasks done effectively through its enhanced search, mobility and collaboration features.

Ferdie Macatangay, Product Manager for Information Worker, Microsoft Philippines says, "The 2007 Microsoft Office system is designed to make things more organized, especially for professionals like Ardy who handle volumes and volumes of important data. The rich collaboration features allow real-time editing and communicating among people within the same network."

The new user interface (UI) features of Office 2007 help organize and more effectively present application tools and capabilities. As a result, users find it easier to quickly discover and use more of the capabilities that Microsoft Office applications offer, enabling them to produce quality work more efficiently. Macatangay shares, "This will allow the user to get better results in just one or two clicks. We have shortened the process for a more productive computing experience."

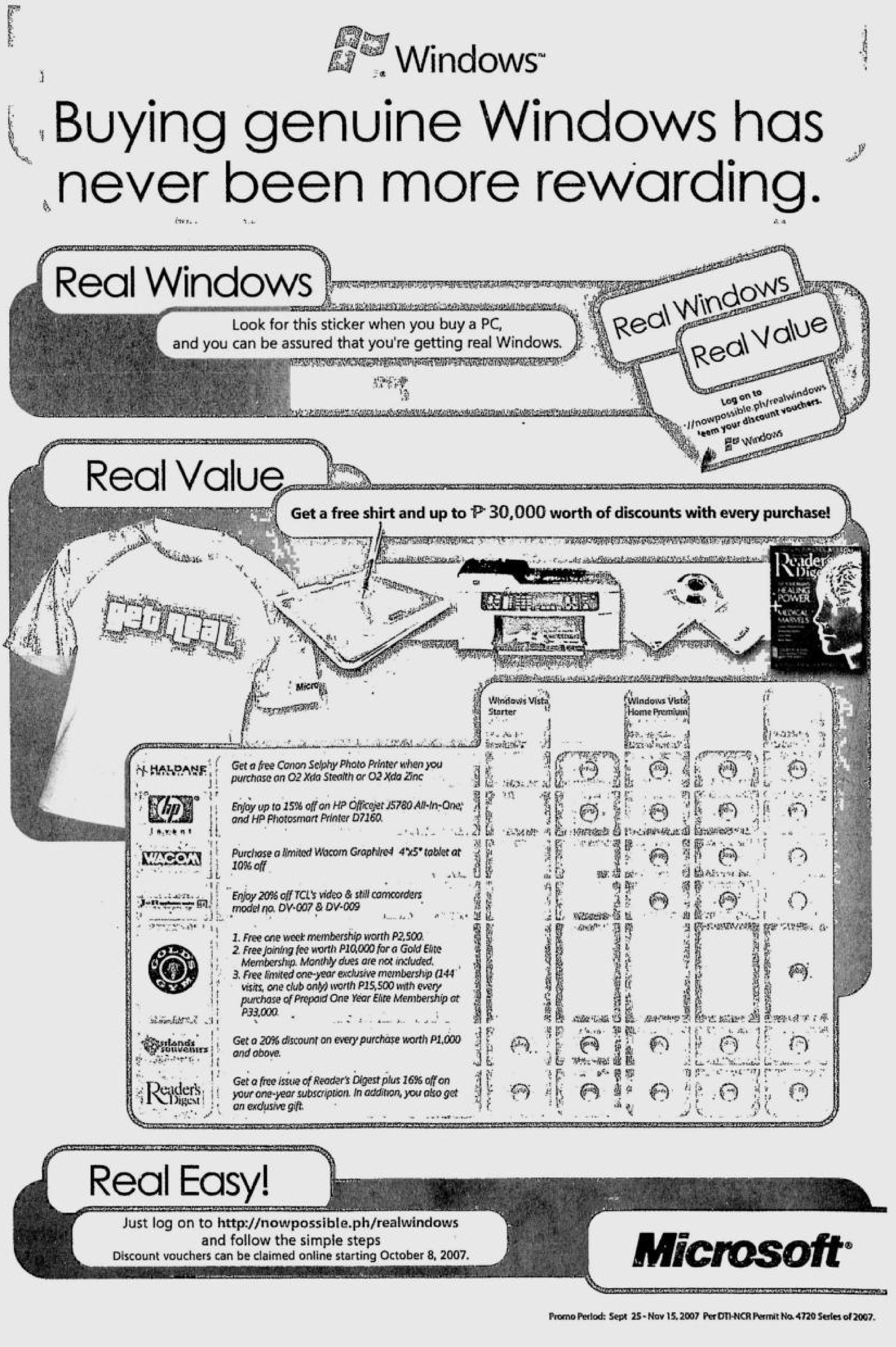
For Ardy, the value of technology lies in the features that contribute to a person's productivity. "As the CEO of companies that are heavy on organizing and promoting seminars, training events and conferences, PowerPoint is a major component of our presentations. Technology, most especially, speeds up work and shortens the distance between people."

"I love my job, because it allows me to inspire and bring out the best in individuals and organizations. With technology, I have spent less time doing my documents and have more time to enjoy my work," said Ardy.

Ardy Roberto is part of the Microsoft Office Icons campaign, a project which pools together a group of individuals who have made their mark in their respective fields, inspired others to do better, and successfully integrated technology as a vital part of their lifestyle. The Microsoft Office Icons serve as examples of how an individual can be empowered or how one can empower others with the use of technology.

"As an entrepreneur, technology is in many ways an asset. It allows me to become more flexible, productive and efficient all at the same time. I've managed to achieve a lot with technology as part of the process of brainstorming about a particular conference, coordinating logistics, communicating with invited speakers, among other things and I plan to do more and raise the bar in inspiring and bringing out the best in people with the help of technology," enthused Ardy.

Ardy Roberto considers technology as an essential tool in becoming an innovative entrepreneur.



Real Windows
Real Value
Log on to
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'eem your discount vouchers.
Windows
Windows Vista Starter
Windows Vista Home Premium

Windows™

Buying genuine Windows has never been more rewarding.

Real Windows

Look for this sticker when you buy a PC,
and you can be assured that you're getting real Windows.

Real Value

Get a free shirt and up to ₱ 30,000 worth of discounts with every purchase!

HALDANE	Get a free Canon Selphy Photo Printer when you purchase an O2 Xda Stealth or O2 Xda Zinc
hp invent	Enjoy up to 15% off on HP Officejet J5780 All-In-One; and HP Photosmart Printer D7160.
WACOM	Purchase a limited Wacom Graphire4 4"x5" tablet at 10% off
[illegible]	Enjoy 20% off TCL's video & still camcorders model no. DV-007 & DV-009
GOLD'S GYM	1. Free one week membership worth P2,500. 2. Free joining fee worth P10,000 for a Gold Elite Membership. Monthly dues are not included. 3. Free limited one-year exclusive membership (144 visits, one club only) worth P15,500 with every purchase of Prepaid One Year Elite Membership at P33,000.
Islands souvenirs	Get a 20% discount on every purchase worth P1,000 and above.
Reader's Digest	Get a free issue of Reader's Digest plus 16% off on your one-year subscription. In addition, you also get an exclusive gift.

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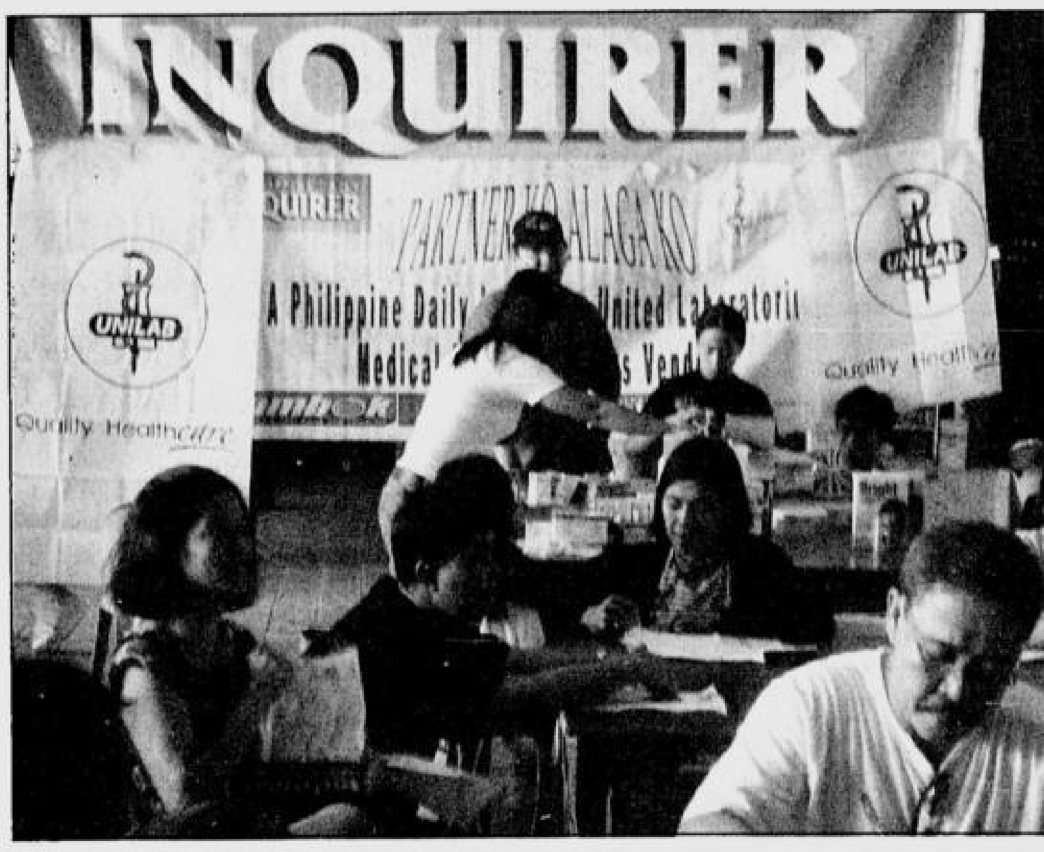
The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Schwarzenegger, Gore star at UN summit



INQUIRER MEDICAL MISSION IN BAGUIO
The first Newsboy Medical Mission of Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) and United Laboratories Inc. (UNILAB) was launched in Maharlika Hall along Session Road in Baguio City on September 14. A total of 138 newsvendors and 35 immediate family members were catered with the help of volunteer doctors, nurses and Baguio newspaper dealers, Navarro and Castro Families.

GOVERNOR Arnold Schwarzenegger of California AFP

UNITED NATIONS—ARNOLD SCHWARZENGGER and Al Gore, Republican and Democrat, shared the world spotlight to press for climate action, adding a touch of star quality to the staid proceedings of a UN summit.

The two headliners, the California governor and the former US vice president, also highlighted by their presence the absence of US President George W. Bush from the eight hours of high-level speechmaking on Monday on what to do about global warming.

Bush, who did take part later in a small, private UN dinner with key players on climate, rejects the idea of international treaty obligations to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse gases" blamed for global warming—an idea central to UN climate negotiations.

Fellow Republican Schwarzenegger, on the other hand, has taken the lead on introducing emissions caps at the US state level, signing legislation mandating such reductions in California.

"One responsibility we all have is action. Action, action, action," the former Hollywood action star said as he helped open the summit, winning warm applause from the assembled presidents and premiers.

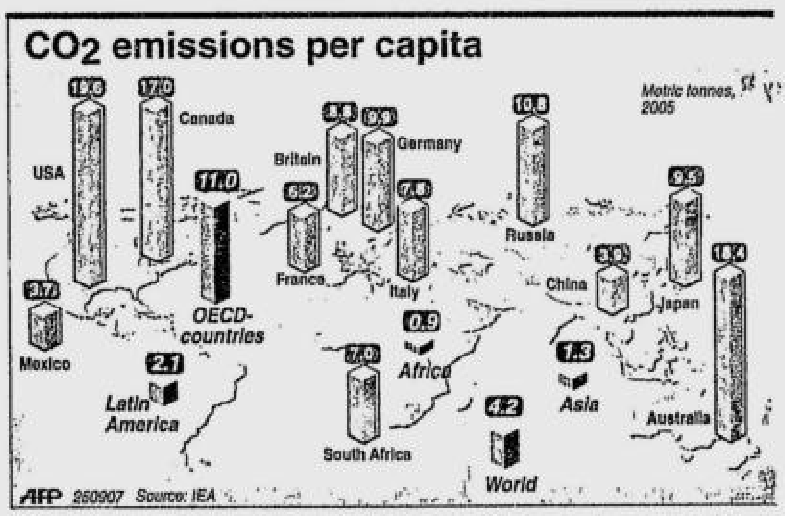
The Democrat Gore—a Hollywood figure himself as the lead in the Oscar-winning climate documentary "An Inconvenient Truth"—took his turn at a summit luncheon, where he cited a lengthening list of global warming's impacts, from the shrinking Arctic ice cap to disappearing lakes in Africa.

"The need to act is now," Gore told delegates to the one-day summit, which drew more than 80 world leaders. "We need a mandate at Bali."

He was referring the annual UN climate treaty conference, scheduled for December in Bali, Indonesia, where the Europeans and others hope to initiate talks for an emissions-reduction agreement to succeed the Kyoto Protocol in 2012.

The 175-nation Kyoto pact, which Washington rejects, requires 36 industrial nations to reduce the heat-trapping gases emitted by power plants and other industrial, agricultural and transportation sources. The 1997 agreement set relatively small target reductions averaging 5 percent below 1990 levels by 2012.

The advocates of emissions caps say a breakthrough is needed at Bali to ensure an uninterrupted transition from the Kyoto deal to a new, deeper-cutting regime. *AP*



AFP 260907 Source: IEA

GRAPHIC shows carbon emissions of selected countries and regions. European countries at the UN summit have set a target halving emissions by 2050.

Foundation awards 24 'genius grants'

CHICAGO—A WOMAN WHO helps students go to college with their "posse," a psychiatrist who treats combat veterans and a museum director on Alaska's Kodiak Island are among the 24 winners of this year's MacArthur Foundation "genius grants."

The $500,000 fellowships were announced Tuesday by the Chicago-based John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Recipients can use the money however they wish.

"It's an incredible gift," said Deborah Bial, 42, founder and president of the Posse Foundation, which helps form social networks that college students can turn to for support. "It will change my life and I hope it will change Posse's life."

Bial was working with New York City public school students in a leadership program when one of the program's alumni tried to explain to her why he struggled after high school. "He said, 'I never would have dropped out of college if I had my posse with me,'" she said.

The conversation inspired Bial, then 23, to create the program that identifies promising teenagers from urban environments and gets them pre-collegiate training in small groups with other students—their "posse"—destined for the same school.

Since then, the New York-based foundation has placed nearly 2,000 students from six cities at 28 colleges. They graduate at a rate of more than 90 percent.

"I feel like the luckiest person in the world because I love what I do," Bial said. "It was serendipity—I was in the right place at the right time with a kid who had a good idea."

Since 1981, the MacArthur Foundation has named 756 fellows, recommended to the foundation's board by a 12-member selection committee.

Other winners of this year's fellowships include a blues musician, a painter, a playwright, an inventor, a medieval historian, a forensic anthropologist who investigates human rights violations, a biomedical scientist studying how to temporarily reduce metabolism and a spider silk biologist researching new synthetic materials. *AP*

Globe™

PRESENTS

2nd Student Advertising Congress

SEPTEMBER 27-28, 2007 - AFP THEATRE, CAMP AGUINALDO

Day 1 - September 27

10:15 – 10:30	Keynote Speaker	**Andrei Khan,** Adboard Chairman
10:30 - 10:40	Welcome Address	**Jimmy Santiago**, Managing Director, TBWA/SM & P
10:40 – 11:45	How to take the Ads to the Professional Level	**Cid P. Reyes,** VP Corp. Comm. Director, Ace Saatchi and Saatchi
1:10 - 1:30	Winning the battle from the heart through Values Advertising	**Dinky Villanueva,** Former Adboard Chairman and PANA President
1:30 – 3:00	Saan ang Asset Mo sa Advertising?	
	Advertising	**Melvin Mangada,** Managing Partner, TBWA/SM & P
	PR/Events	**Roni Tapia Merk,** Merk Media, Pres. Intl. Assoc. of Bus. Corresp.
	Publication	**Poch Bermudez,** President, Hinge/Inquirer
	TV Network	**Robert Labayen,** Senior VP for Creative, ABS-CBN
	Radio Network	**Andrew Santiago,** Station Manager, Magic 89.9
		Rey Langit, KBP Chairman, Manila Chapter
	Moderator :	**Ms. Twink Macaraig,** ANC Network
3:00 – 3:30	Globe's Advocacy for the Youth	**Mike Aldrich Wage,** Strategy and Business Support,Globe Telecom
3:30 - 4:00	Changing Landscapes in Advertising	**Cynthia Dayco,** Editor-In-Chief, Adobo Magazine
4:00- 5:00	The Director's Eye on Targeting the Youth	**Socky Fernandez,** Comml. Director, Brew Productions
5:00 – 5:30	Creative Options for Advertisers on a Leading News Website	**Mon Lizardo,** VP-Sales and Linkages, Inquirer.net

DAY 2 – September 28

8:30 – 10:30	Creative Explosives in the Academe	**Dong Fajardo, Aris Estrella, Jun Alcantara**
10:30 – 11:30	Creative Ads By the Youth For the Youth	**Randy Vitales,** Winner Bootcamp USA
	Kung Kaya Namin, Keri N'yo To. Laban!	**Mignon Wilhelma Tobias,** Copywriter, Leo Burnett Young Creative Silver Winner Cannes Festival, France
11:30 -12:00	Advertising Opportunities in Online Gaming	**Tess C. Tatad,** Business Development Manager,IP e-games
1:00 – 5:00	"Me ARAW ka din" Awards and Recognition	

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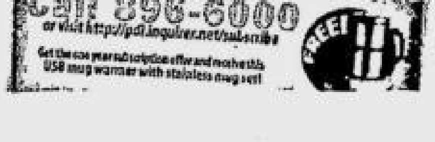

WHAT'S INSIDE

MVP boosts boxing's Olympic gold drive /A28

SPORTS

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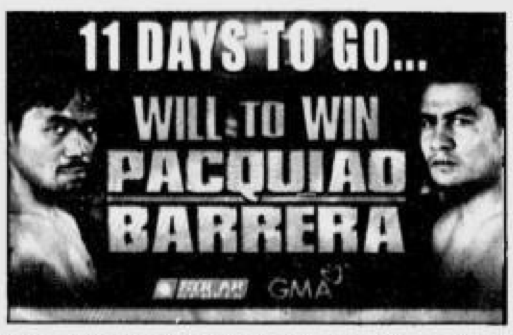

Barrera escape route plugged; 14-round drill awes crowd

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—THERE IS A BIG POSSIBILITY Marco Antonio Barrera will do everything to avoid an early knockout, so Manny Pacquiao perfected a sneaky liver shot, launched and capped with blinding rat-tat-tat right shots, in a non-stop 14-round punching drill that dramatically plugged all possible escape routes of the legendary Mexican warrior here yesterday.

There was already a crowd in Pacquiao's first official gym workout here since arriving from his training stint in Cebu Saturday night, but the anticipated sparring session was instead rescheduled for today.

The awesome display of power, speed and sharpness came in a breathtaking non-stop drill with the mitts inside the ring, spread over the same length of time it takes to propel him on a jet flight from Manila to his hometown GenSan or nearby Mindanao.

Big bombs

The execution was purely imaginary, the big bombs reverberating far and wide—maybe all the way to the secluded Barrera workplace in Guadalajara—and the few Mexicans in the 60-strong horde at Wild Card could only smile wryly and shake their heads in awe.

The liver shot, brought into the open here for the first time, was a paralyzing replica of the left dagger to the rib cage used by Gerry Peñalosa in stopping world super bantamweight king Jhonny Gonzales in Sacramento early last month, but delivered by Pacquiao with a flashing right hook.

After the no-break punching drill that had a tired but visibly pleased Freddie Roach on the receiving end, Pacquiao did another full hour of assorted drills, capped by a neophyte session on the floor that surprisingly included the use of weights, as prescribed by a Roach gym deputy.

However, this amateurish portion was mercifully scrapped after less than 10 minutes on the suggestion of Roach assistant Buboy Fernandez, who insisted the use of iron this late could result in strain and severely disrupt hard-earned rhythm and speed.

Full morning run

Actually, Pacquiao yesterday was supposed to do only a short jog, limber up in the park close to his apartment. But he opted to take a full morning run through the trying Griffith Park terrain with Rodel Mayol, whom he's helping to repackage here.

Pacquiao covered the hilly terrain in only 45 minutes, three minutes faster at this point in previous training here.

"Our plan? We'll knock him out earlier," Roach told the INQUIRER, a plot he had to reconfirm following silly rumors of a dive and a rubber match.

PACQUIAO PDI PHOTO

All in all, yesterday's Pacquiao regimen lasted a full 30 rounds, with Pacquiao still oozing with vigor when he reluctantly agreed to call it a day.

He had the usual shower and rubdown, then repaired to the gym counter where he gladly accommodated admirers, signing mementos and posing for photographs.

Roach no longer had to explain why he allowed Pacquiao to refuse the usual minute-break in between the training rounds.

Pacquiao, meanwhile, was unusually quiet although he earlier told a television man from Manila about that famous Joe Frazier adage that nobody could help or save a boxer inside the ring except himself.

Recovering ₱600M bugs PBA

By Musong R. Castillo

MACAU—NEWLY MINTED PBA CHAIR Tony Chua has an expensive task waiting to be addressed—close to P600 million.

Chua said that the PBA is seriously considering going after at least two networks that owe the league a huge sum of money which will be used to fund part of the league's cherished dream to build a coliseum of its own.

The league's board arrived in this gambling capital of Asia at noon on Tuesday and immediately went into a conference room at the spectacular, 2,000-room Venetian Hotel to discuss, among other things, the criteria for the new commissioner, and hopefully, those collectibles.

"But how can you sue the (Philippine) government (station)?" asked Chua at the airport.

RECOVERING/ A26

Zhang grabs lead; RP chessers falter

By Roy Luarca

STANDINGS: 5.5 points—Z. Pengxiang (China); 5—Z. Jianchao (China), W. Hao (China), D. Neelotpal (India), E. Hossain (Bangladesh), S. Megaranto (Indonesia); 4.5—S. Yang (China) U. Adianto (Indonesia), C. Sandipan (India), G. Gopal (India); 4—**E. Torre (RP), R. Antonio (RP)**, S. Ganguly (India), L.Q. Liem (Vietnm); 3.5—**M. Paragua (RP), O. Dimakiling (RP), J. Sadorra (RP)**, X. Jun (China), G. Maghami (Iran), T.H. Thong (Vietnam)

OLIVER Dimakiling props his bid with a victory over Rhobel Legaspi. PDI PHOTO

MANDAUE CITY—THE TOP Filipino hopefuls fell by the wayside Tuesday night as Chinese GM Zhang Pengxiang emerged as the new leader in the Sixth Asian Individual Chess Championship at the Cebu International Convention Center here.

Grandmasters Eugene Torre, Rogelio "Joey" Antonio and Mark Paragua dropped their seventh-round matches, putting a dent on their bid to gain slots to the Chess World Cup slated in Khanty, Mansiyk, Russia, in November.

Zhang handed erstwhile pacesetter GM Susanto Megaranto of Indonesia his first loss in 40 moves of a Slav and vaulted to the top with 5.5 points.

Megaranto stayed at 5.0 points, half a point ahead of countryman and fellow GM Utut Adianto, who beat Iranian GM Amir Bagheri.

Also with 5.0 points was Chinese GM Zhou Jianchao, who outwitted newly minted Indian GM G.N. Gopal.

Chinese WGM Shen Yang provided the day's shocker when she downed Paragua in 31 moves of a Queen's Indian Defense.

Nearly an hour later, Antonio yielded to Chinese GM Wang Hao after 36 moves of a Caro-Kann and then Torre bowed to Indian GM Das Neelotpal after 41 moves of a Trompovsky Opening.

Antonio and Torre, perennial national team members, got mired at 4.0 points.

The 16-year-old Shen, the reigning world junior girls' champion, pounced on a blunder by Paragua to climb to 4.5 points, joining Adianto and Indian GM Chanda Sandipan.

Showing his expertise with black, Turin Olympian Oliver Dimakiling trounced Rhobel Legaspi in 37 moves of a Sicilian to inject life to his waning bid with 3.5 points, the same total of Paragua and Singapore-based Julio Catalino Sadorra. •

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Red Lions go for jugular today

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Letran vs San Sebastian (Jrs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs San Beda (Srs)

HE WAS A VITAL COG FOR SAN Beda College when the Red Lions captured two straight NCAA crowns decades ago.

With a receding hairline and lugging additional pounds, Frankie Lim now returns to the scene of his collegiate conquest as head coach of a team craving to duplicate a feat it achieved 29 years before.

"We don't want to be overconfident but I think it can be done," said Lim on the eve of the Red Lions' date with history.

Grabbing the best-of-three series opener, 76-68, the Red Lions will go for the clincher against the Letran Knights in Game 2 of the 83rd NCAA men's basketball finals today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Game time is set at 4 p.m. following the juniors championship showdown between the San Sebastian Staglets and Letran Squires.

Ryan Buenafe, who posted a fourth triple-double, aims to lead the Staglets to their third consecutive title after dumping Letran, 90-72, in Game 1 of their series.

The Red Lions downed the Knights in Game 1 behind Ogie Menor's 23 points.

"We prepared hard all week long to be in shape," said the 47-year-old Lim, the top playmaker for the champion San Beda teams of 1977 and 1978.

San Beda's rebounding monster Sam Ekwe, forward Yousif Aljamal and the backcourt trio of Menor, Pong Escobal and Borgie Hermida, however, are facing a squad which has an unbelievable history of coming back from a deathly situation.

The Knights were in the same predicament in 2005 opposite Philippine Christian University before yanking the rug from under the Dolphins in the next two games to steal the championship. Beda is really tough," said Alas.

Meanwhile, Kelvin Dela Peña, Aljamal and Marvin Hayes will slug it out for the right to be named MVP for this year's season.

Dela Peña, Mapua's do-it-all playmaker, has gained headway in the MVP race after emerging on top of the statistical sheets with an average of 15.8 points, 8.6 rebounds, 5.8 assists and 2.3 steals a game. *June Navarro*

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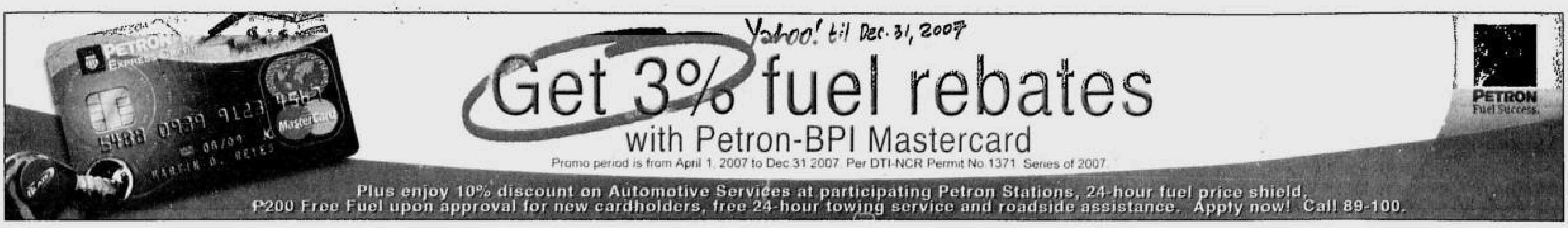
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Eagles dying to live, play another game

GAME THURSDAY (Araneta Coliseum)
3 p.m.—La Salle vs Ateneo

By Jasmine W. Payo

EVEN IF ANOTHER TOUGH stretch lies ahead for the Ateneo Blue Eagles, their payback triumph over the defending champions has greatly lifted their mood.

And it's this winning disposition Ateneo hopes to carry into its second straight do-or-die UAAP semifinal battle against blood rival De La Salle.

"You have to remember that when we played La Salle the last time, we were coming from that disastrous game against NU," said Ateneo coach Norman Black.

"We were a bit down as far as energy is concerned. It's a little bit different now. We probably won over one of the best teams in the league which is UST, so we have a little more confidence, a little more momentum."

But Black noted that overcoming last season's heartache against the Tigers with a 69-64 knockout win is one thing. Beating the Green Archers twice, however, is another.

It was just over a week ago when the Eagles yielded the No. 2 spot to the Archers in a playoff match, thus blowing a chance to claim the twice-to-beat bonus in the final phase of the stepladder semifinals.

"We have a hard, long road to go," Black said during the PSA Forum yesterday at Shakey's UN Avenue.

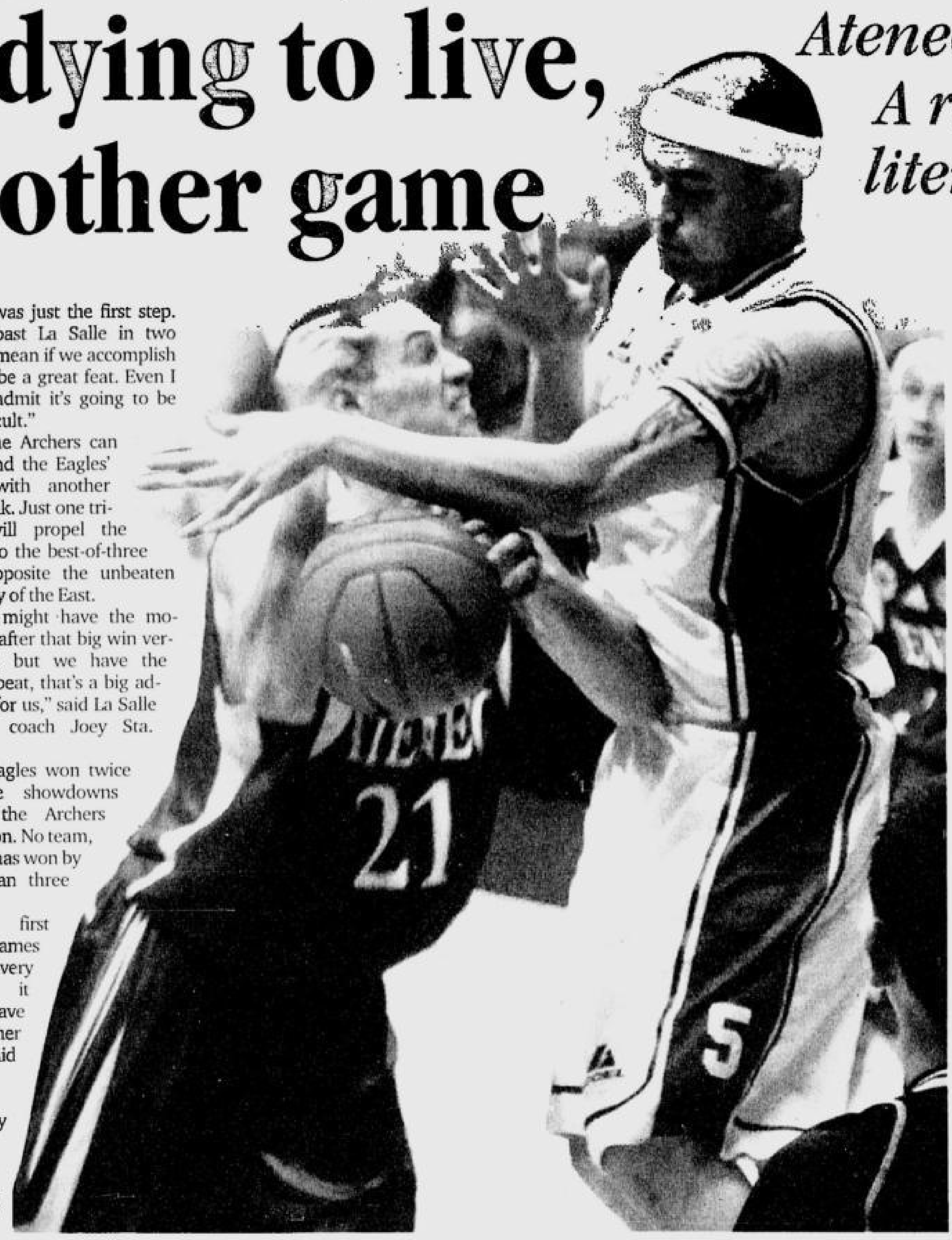
"UST was just the first step. Getting past La Salle in two games, I mean if we accomplish it, it will be a great feat. Even I have to admit it's going to be very difficult."

And the Archers can swiftly end the Eagles' season with another heartbreak. Just one triumph will propel the Archers to the best-of-three Finals opposite the unbeaten University of the East.

"They might have the momentum after that big win versus UST, but we have the twice-to-beat, that's a big advantage for us," said La Salle assistant coach Joey Sta. Maria.

The Eagles won twice in three showdowns against the Archers this season. No team, though, has won by more than three points.

"The first three games were very close; it could have gone either way," said Sta. Maria. "It's very unpredictable. You never know who's going to do well."


EXPECT a bruising encounter—like this hard foul from La Salle's PJ Walsham (right) on Ateneo's Zion Laterre—when the Archers and Eagles duel in a semifinal battle tomorrow between the two archrivals. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Ateneo vs La Salle: A rivalry heard, literally, around the world

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE FIERCE FEUD BETWEEN THE ATEneo Blue Eagles and the La Salle Green Archers recently hit the sports pages of The New York Times in "A nation's passion lives in a rivalry of Green vs Blue," a feature story written by Raphael Batholomew.

"The question of which institution provides a superior education is a toss-up; the tie breakers take place on the basketball court," writes Bartholomew.

It's the only sports event, he says, that gathers "senators, foreign diplomats, cabinet ministers, a smattering of Forbes's 40 richest Filipinos, movie stars and enough professional basketball players to play five-on-five."

And he quotes La Salle coach Franz Pumaren: "The janitors in Araneta always say, 'If there's an Ateneo-La Salle game, once everybody's out of the coliseum, it still smells good because of the all the socialites watching.'"

Bartholomew says the "rivalry has loosened the bond of friendship" between Pumaren and Ateneo coach Norman Black.

Quoting Black: "If you're part of the rivalry, you just don't like each other. Franz played for me and he was my assistant coach, but that has little bearing on what's happening right now."

And it amuses University of the East coach Dindo Pumaren how his Warriors, who just completed a rare 14-0 sweep in the elimination round of the UAAP men's competition, have been forgotten in the light of the rivalry.

"Even if both schools are in the cellars, every game will always be like a championship," he said. "It's school pride. It's all about passion. Their games are just different, their rivalry is different."

PBA adopts new rules for coming season

By Musong R. Castillo

MACAU—ANYTHING FOR THE FANS.

The PBA board unanimously agreed to implement new rules that will, it hopes, make the games faster, scores higher and the action more exciting.

New chair Tony Chua, after presiding over his first board meeting held at the majestic, 2,000-room Venetian Hotel here, told a handful of scribes in this gambling mecca that the new rules will be in effect at the start of the 33rd season on Oct. 14.

From 22 feet, the three-point line will be shortened to 20. The shaded area will now be trapezoidal in shape from rectangular and a certain form of hand-checking will not be allowed for more physical play.

"These rules changes are being made to give way to the clamor of our fans, who want fast-paced, thrilling action," said Chua, who was joined in the trip by Ely Capacio of San Miguel, Robert Non of Ginebra, Lito Alvarez of Air21, Joaqui Trillo of Alaska, Mamerto Mondragon of Welcoat, Purefoods' Rene Pardo and ex-chair Ricky Vargas of Talk 'N Text.

Only Sta. Lucia's Buddy Encarnado, who is in Boston in the United States, and JB Baylon of Coca-Cola, who has a prior commitment, were not in the meeting.

Another new rule calls for a team to go into penalty if it commits two fouls inside the last two minutes of each quarter. Fouls of teams in the fourth quarter will also be carried over into overtime.

The "hand-check" rule is not a revival of the old "no-harm-no-foul" rule devised during Tommy Manotoc's reign as deputy commissioner in the mid-1980s, but instead, it will be implemented to put more physicality into the games.

"It will be called a foul once the progress of the offensive player is impeded," Chua explained. "We want the games to be a little more physical and we want to let the players play and the games to be decided on their (players') merits."

Recovering…

From page A25

NBN 4, which covered the games in the last year of the late Jun Bernardino's term as commissioner and Viva-Vintage, which preceded Viva, owes the league a huge part of that amount.

NBN 4, which initially had a three-year contract to cover the games, saw its contract terminated in the final year because of its growing debt. It got the deal on the strength of a Letter of Guarantee from a rural bank which Ricky Vargas of Talk 'N Text opposed since the start.

"Those debts almost brought us to our knees," said Vargas, who was the chair last year. "And now that bank does not even want to talk to us."

But other than suing NBN 4, the PBA will have a lot of things to consider since the government network is bleeding, to say the least. There were reports that the salaries of some of its talents are delayed for at least three months.

The PBA is hoping to build its own arena on a prime lot in Quezon City which will cost the league at least a billion to acquire.

PRESIDENTS CUP

Int'l squad roster impresses Tiger

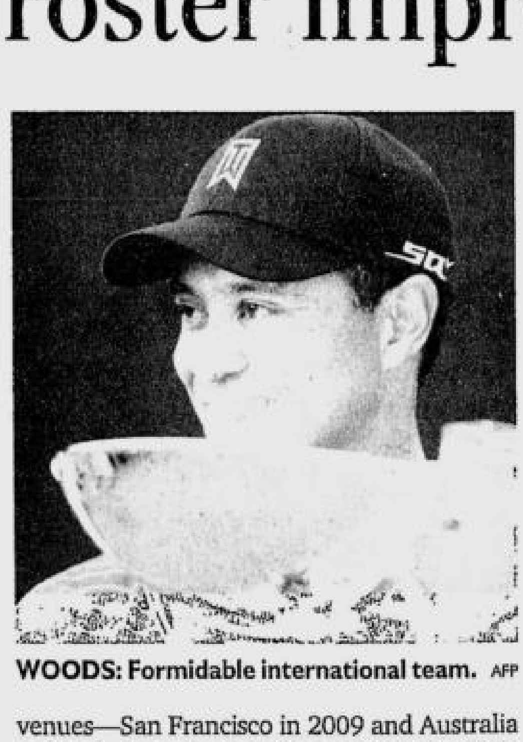
MONTREAL—TIGER WOODS SEES AN impressive International squad poised for the Presidents Cup but likes the chance his US team can retain the trophy with a fun but focused atmosphere inspired by captain Jack Nicklaus.

Both teams arrived Monday in Canada ahead of the seventh edition of the match-play event between American and non-European sides at Royal Montreal Golf Club, with the US squad owning a 4-1-1 edge in the rivalry.

South Africa's Ernie Els, Australian Adam Scott and South Korean KJ Choi lead an Internationals lineup with nine of the top 18 players in the world.

"If you look on the international side, I think that everyone will be the first to admit that's probably the best lineup there is, including US or European Ryder Cup teams," Woods said in a conference call Monday.

"To be on the international team, you have to basically be in the top 20 in the world to make the squad. That's pretty formidable."


WOODS: Formidable international team. AFP

As part of golf's global growth, the next Presidents Cups will be staged in new venues—San Francisco in 2009 and Australia in 2011, returning to the only nation where the Internationals won by 20 1/2-11 1/2 in 1998.

Asked about spreading the event to new areas, Woods made a backhanded slap at that lone Internationals' victory, noting how US players were off form by having to make the trip Down Under in December.

"Any time you get to move this event, move it around, I think it helps the event. It helps grow what we're trying to grow," Woods said.

"The only exception was probably in '98 when some of the guys had taken their time off and really hadn't been as prepared as they needed to be for the event.

"But every other year since, I think the guys have been very focused, have always wanted to win."

Woods, whose 61 PGA titles include 13 majors, cited the influence of Nicklaus, the man whose record 18 majors Woods wants to break, in keeping the US focused but also enjoying the event and each other.

"Jack has traditionally just let us play. He gets out of the way. He says go prepare how you normally prepare for an event," Woods said. "It has been more hands-off than anything else. When he does speak, though, everyone listens." *AFP*

Williams makes Korea Open second round

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—TOP seeded Venus Williams strolled into the second round of the Korea Open on Tuesday, defeating American qualifier Abigail Spears, 6-2, 6-3.

Despite warm conditions at Seoul's Olympic Park tennis arena, Williams barely broke a sweat as she used her powerful serve to dominate the match. Spears, with her right arm heavily strapped, failed to win a single point from Williams' first serve in the opening set.

The second set continued in a similar vein. World No. 9 Williams broke again in the opening game and held off a late rally from Spears to complete a comfortable win.

In other first round matches, defending champion No. 5 Eleni Daniilidou of Greece won a hard-fought match against Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki, 6-4, 6-4, Martina Muller of Germany eased past local hope Han Sung-hee, 6-1, 6-0, American Ahsha Rolle made short work of Britain's Anne Keothavong, 6-1, 6-1, and Frenchwoman Mathilde Johansson defeated Junri Namigata of Japan, 7-5, 6-2.

Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugaen rallied from a set down to eliminate Casey Dellacqua of Australia, 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, and Meng Yuan of China defeated New Zealand's Marina Erakovic, 6-4, 6-4.

Williams, who won her sixth Grand Slam at Wimbledon this year, returned to the top 10 in the WTA world rankings for the first time since April 2006 after reaching the US Open semifinals earlier this month. *AP*

SPORTSWATCH

CHAMPS: Francisco Tirador Heler, Jr. (right), provincial government department head of Iloilo receives the trophy for the overall championship in the recent Philippine Olympic Festival from Philippine Olympic Committee chair Robert Aventajado (center). Iloilo won the trophy after amassing 72 gold, 84 silver and 70 bronze medals.

LGBA series continues

CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHTS IN THE LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASSOciation (LGBA) 7-stag derby continue today at San Juan Coliseum beginning at 10 a.m. with 118 encounters lined up. The initial batch of finalists saw action last Monday at Araneta Coliseum. The entries of Honey Yu and Dong Chung, Jun Marasigan and William Yap, Cano Raya and Boy Tuazon posted identical 6-1 (win -loss) slates each to lead the series. An impressive field of 189 entries took part in the first leg, and with two more legs remaining, the total number of entries may reach 500, said LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz. For additional info, please call 7255369 and 7256563

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Music Quest (2), Lord Of The Ring (5), Trouble Master (1), Vinia's Pride (3)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Flavorofthemonth/Gung Ho (7), Sweet Talk (3), Starsky And Hutch (5), I Love This Game (1), Bundok Peninsula (2)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—American Inggo (5), Golden Harry (6), Noble Scholar (1), Amazing Pace (7)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Joletsky (6), Chariot Of Fire (2), Lady Line (7), Armidale (3)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Wind Shore Lady (4), Prussian Gunner (5), Be Faithful (6), Tucker Pride (2)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Henry D'Eight (3), Dynamic Duo/Storm Hall (1), EJ Forever (8), Ilocos Pride (7), Court House (5)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Worth Ur While (1), Shifty (7), Best Hand (4), Princess Sophia (2)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Speed Admiral (10), Carmelita (1), Angle Red (7), Silent Witness (3), Whilly Nilly (9), Romanticist (2)

Bata, Django take on Scots in World Cup pool defense

EFREN "BATA" REYES AND FRANcisco "Django" Bustamante open defense of their PartyPoker.net World Cup Pool title against the Scottish pair of Michael Valentine and Pat Holtz Tuesday at the Outland nightclub in Rotterdam, Holland.

The RP-Scotland duel is the fourth of six matches scheduled on the opening day of the $250,000 scotch doubles tournament featuring crack two-man squads from 31 countries.

It will be Croatia against Russia in the first match followed by China versus South Africa and Japan against Spain. France versus Italy will be the day's fifth match with the Holland A-Indonesia duel capping the day's program.

The initial knockout play lasting up to Thursday is a race to eight, winner-break format.

Reyes and Bustamante, playing under the banner of Puyat Sports, clinched the inaugural trophy last August when they beat Team America spearheaded by Rodney "Rocket" Morris and Earl "The Pearl" Strickland in the final at the Newport Center, Newport, Wales in front of a large partisan crowd.

Morris has tapped former US Open winner Corey Deuel as partner this time.

Although not as famous as the Filipinos, the Scots are no pushovers.

The Larkhall, Scotland native Holtz is the reigning Scottish 9-Ball Champion and reached the last 16 in the last World Pool Championship. An Irish 9-Ball Masters Champion, he has three Scottish Tour wins and was semifinalist at the 2007 World Pool Masters.

Valentine, from Grangemouth, Scotland is a former UK pool winner.

Holtz and Valentine, who idolizes Reyes, lost 9-5 in the first round last year to the Holland pair of Niels Feijen and Nick van Den Berg.

If the Filipinos win, they will face in the second round, the survivor of the Russia-Croatia duel.

Playing for Russia are Konstantin Stepanov and Ruslan Chinakhov while Croatia is represented by Philipp Stojanovic and Ivica Putnik.

The Wednesday pairings include Australia-Austria, India-Canada and Vietnam-Korea.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

PUYAT SPORTS

REYES (left) and Bustamante.

PBL holds rookie camp

A TOTAL OF 104 ASpirants are expected to show up and display their stuff today when the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) holds its Rookie Camp at The Arena in San Juan.

UAAP and NCAA stars, led by Jervy Cruz of University of Santo Tomas, and several other foreign-based players, among them Richard Cole of Cypress College and Amir Mazarei of University of Redlands, are among those who have confirmed their participation in the rookie camp which starts at 9 a.m.

Gabe Norwood, the 6-foot-5 former George Mason University starter in the US NCAA, has also made himself available for the rookie draft slated Friday but he's not expected to attend the camp.

Ex-cabbie earns slot to world darts tilt

DAVAO CITY'S JOJO Barellano beat eight other hopefuls for a slot to the World Darts Championship set later this year in England.

The 42-year-old former cab driver will be joined by other qualifiers from India, Russia, Japan, China, New Zealand, a Dutch wildcard entry and an Eastern European country to be named by the organizing Professional Darts Corporation.

Barellano, who earned an outright finals slot after topping the preliminary round, beat Orlan Bernardino in the best-of-three finals.

"I did not allow myself to be pressured," said Barellano, who pocketed P24,000.

Tito Soncuya, NDFP president said the event was backed by Robson Spectra, Questor, Festival Supermall, Solar Sports and media partners INQUIRER and TUMBOK.

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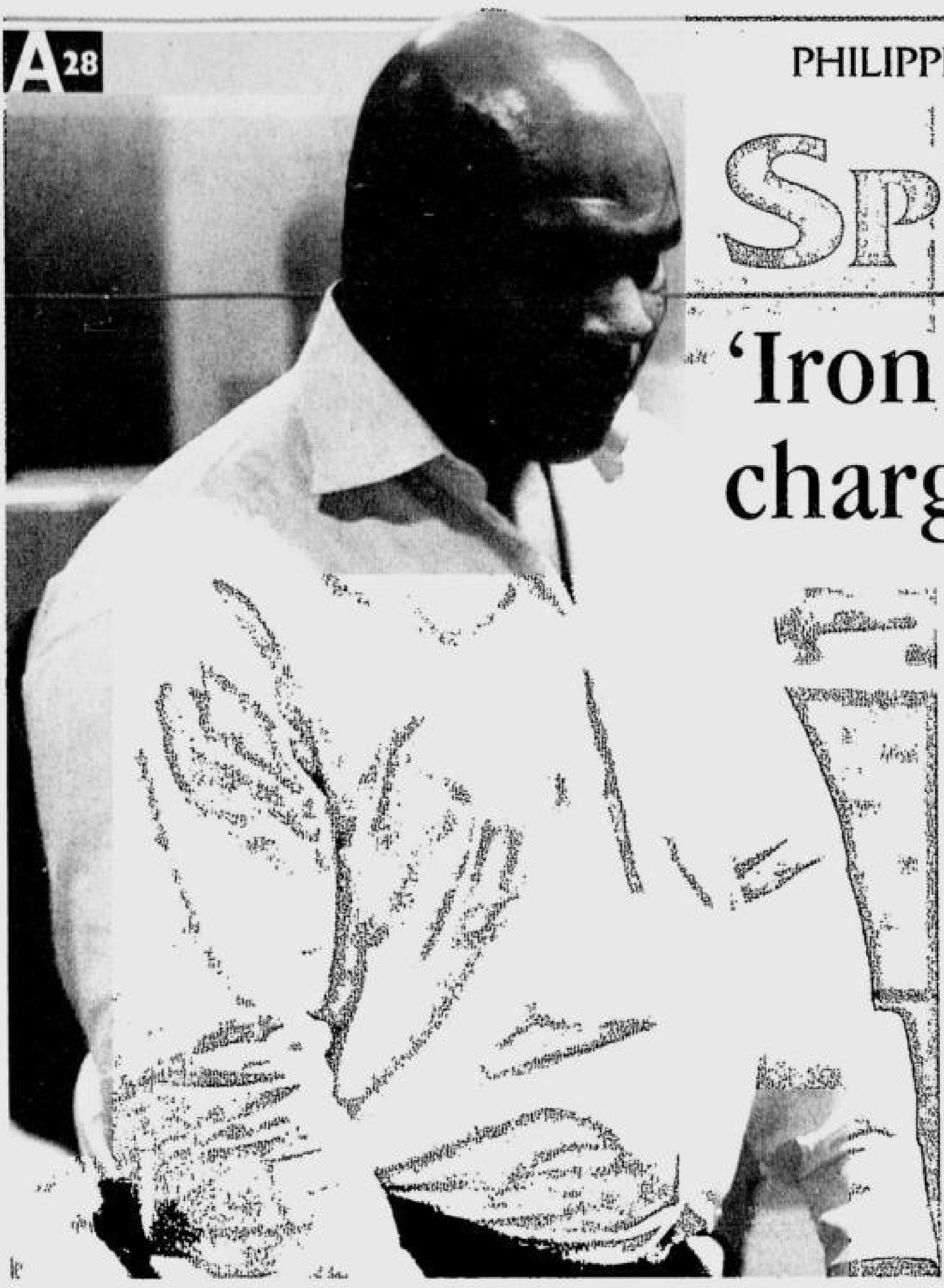
SPORTS



TROUBLE seems to stalk Mike Tyson, who pleads guilty to taking cocaine. AP

'Iron Mike' pleads guilty to drug charges, faces prison term anew

MESA, ARIZONA—FORMER HEAVYweight boxing champion Mike Tyson pleaded guilty Monday to charges of drug possession and driving under the influence stemming from a traffic stop last year as he was leaving a nightclub.

Tyson quietly acknowledged to a judge that he had cocaine and was impaired when he was stopped for driving erratically in the Phoenix suburb of Scottsdale on Dec. 29.

He pleaded guilty to a single felony count of cocaine possession and a misdemeanor DUI count and faces up to four years and three months in prison when he is sentenced Nov. 19. A felony charge of possession of drug paraphernalia and a second misdemeanor DUI charge were dropped as part of a plea agreement.

Clean and sober

Defense lawyer David Chesnoff said Tyson has been clean and sober for eight months.

"It's obvious this was a crime he was committing against himself," Chesnoff said.

Cocaine in pockets

Police stopped Tyson after the boxer had spent the evening at Scottsdale's Pussycat Lounge. An officer said he saw Tyson wiping a white substance off the dashboard of his black BMW, and that his speech was slurred. Authorities said they found bags of cocaine in Tyson's pocket and in his car.

Tyson told officers later that he used cocaine "whenever I can get my hands on it," and that he preferred to smoke it in Marlboro cigarettes with the tobacco pulled out, according to court documents. He also told police that he used marijuana that day and was taking the antidepressant drug Zoloft, the documents state.

Since his arrest, Tyson checked himself into an inpatient treatment program for what his lawyer called "various addictions."

County Attorney Andrew Thomas said Tyson should be put in prison, noting that Tyson was convicted of rape in the midwestern state of Indiana in 1992 and pleaded no contest to misdemeanor assault charges in the state of Maryland in 1999.

Repeat offender

"Mike Tyson is a repeat offender with a violent past," Thomas said. "I believe only a prison sentence will send the right message and properly protect the public."

In 1986, Tyson became the youngest heavyweight champion in history when, at 20, he knocked out Trevpr Berbick. He lost his title four years later when he was knocked out by James "Buster" Douglas. By 1997, Tyson's career hit a low point when he bit Evander Holyfield's ear during a fight.

Tyson, 41, recently had been trying to revive his career with a series of boxing exhibitions. *AP*

P18.4-M WAR CHEST

MVP boosts boxing's Olympic gold drive

By Dennis U. Eroa
Libre Sports Editor

TWO MANNY'S MET YESTERDAY AND the result was, pardon the pun, lots of money.

PLDT-Smart chair Manny V. Pangilinan and Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny T. Lopez signed a landmark agreement which is expected to fuel the country's drive for its first Olympic gold.

The memoramdum of agreement provides an P18.4-million war chest for members of the national training pool for men's and women's.

There are currently 36 men and 12 women in the national training pool based at the Teachers Camp in Baguio City and the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Malate.

The small but select crowd at the Ramon Cojuangco building in Makati Avenue burst in applause as Pangilinan said that the amount should result in 18 gold medals.

PANGILINAN

"We felt this is an obligation to support the quest for the country's first Olympic gold," said Pangilinan, who is now dubbed as the new godfather of boxing.

"This is the first time that we supported boxing and we will never waver. The immediate goal is Beijing, but there's also 2012 London," he added.

Metro Pacific's Dennis Lucindo, Abap secretary general Roger Fortaleza and treasurer Ruben Roque witnessed the signing.

Before his entry into boxing, Pangilinan, known in the business and sport circles as MVP, had also funded basketball and badminton programs. He is the current president of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas.

PLDT-Smart is also backing taekwondo's Olympic drive. Taekwondo and boxing have always been regarded as the country brightest hopes for an Olympic gold.

Boxing has two Olympic silver medals courtesy of Anthony Villanueva in 1964 (Tokyo) and Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco in 1996 (Atlanta).

Lopez admitted that before the entry of PLDT-Smart, amateur boxing has been thirsting for sponsors.

"Fortunately, MVP came to the rescue of our program," Lopez said. "MVP told me to get not just one but two or more Cuban coaches."

Pangilinan agreed that international exposure is a must for boxers. "There's no substitute for actual combat experience abroad," he said.

Tipon gains finals; Basadre claims Czech box bronze

TIPON

BANTAMWEIGHT Joan Tipon assured the RP-Smart boxing team a third silver medal after a clinical 19-6 semifinal triumph over hard-fighting Norbert Kalutzca of Hungary Sunday in the Ostrava Grand Prix at the Czech Republic.

Tipon, one of the country's hottest prospects for a medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, joined light flyweight Harry Tañamor and flyweight Violito Payla in the finals of the weeklong slugfest featuring leading boxers from Asia and Europe.

Lightweight Genebert Basadre, however, settled for the bronze medal as he bowed to a superior fighter in Totz Laszlo of Hungary, who prevailed, 30-21 in their semifinal clash.

Laszlo used his superior footwork to advance to the finals against Russian Anton Ryzhikov.

Tipon, an Asian Games gold medalist last year, guns for the gold against Hungarian David Oltvanyi, who nipped Russian favorite Evgeny Volkov, 9-8.

Tañamor and flyweight Payla, also an Asiad winner last year, will also tackle crack Russians in the gold medal fights scheduled late last night.

Tañamor, a two-time Olympian, trades punches with Vadian Idigeshev, while Payla meets Evgeny Ermakov.

The Ostrava GP is a warm-up for the nationals, who are going to the AIBA World Boxing Championships slated later next month in Chicago, Illinois.

Yankees playoff bid takes a hit; Twins triumph

NEW YORK—THE NEW YORK Yankees' hopes of gaining an automatic playoff spot suffered a setback with a 4-1 home defeat by the Toronto Blue Jays on Monday.

The result left the Yankees trailing American League East Division leaders the Boston Red Sox by two games.

"You could definitely tell it was a makeup game," Yankees losing pitcher Andy Pettitte told reporters. "We just weren't able to get much going. Their guy threw the ball well, and unfortunately, I gave up those three runs early. That was really the ballgame."

Pettitte was filling in for Roger Clemens, who was nursing a slight hamstring injury. He allowed four runs and five hits over six innings in the Yankees' final home game of the regular season.

Blue Jays pitcher Jesse Litsch, a late stand-in for AJ Burnett, tied the Yankees down by throwing five scoreless innings. He allowed five hits and one run over seven-plus innings.

PETTITTE AP

"I got told (Sunday) night," Litsch told reporters when asked about the pitching change. "So, I was just trying to go out and just pitch my game."

The Yankees, who have six games remaining, should still make the post-season through a wildcard place by finishing second in the division. The New Yorkers are comfortably clear of nearest rivals the Detroit Tigers.

The Minnesota Twins shut out Detroit, 2-0, to all but eliminate the defending American League champions from the post-season. One more Detroit loss or Yankees win would end the Tigers' playoff hopes.

Marlon Byrd's two-run homer in the sixth inning led the Texas Rangers to an 8-7 home win over the Los Angeles Angels. *Reuters*

Davis Cup arouses a certain kind of passion

GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN—IN 1900, Dwight Filley Davis donated a silver trophy for a tennis competition between the United States and Britain.

Little did the Harvard student know then that a century later teams from more than 130 countries would be playing in the tournament that bears his name, nor that it would arouse fierce devotion in fans such as Anthony Glavanic.

Glavanic, a stocky, dark-haired tennis instructor, helps to organize the "Net-heads," a band of tennis diehards who travel the world to support the United States in the men's team event.

"It's our job to get our butts out here," Glavanic said moments after Andy Roddick had put the US into this year's final by winning his match against Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman on Sunday.

Clanging cow bells and screaming after every point, Glavanic and the Net-heads show how much passion the Davis Cup brings out in people.

CZECH Republic players toss Radek Stepanek in the air after he defeated Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka during their Davis Cup tie. REUTERS

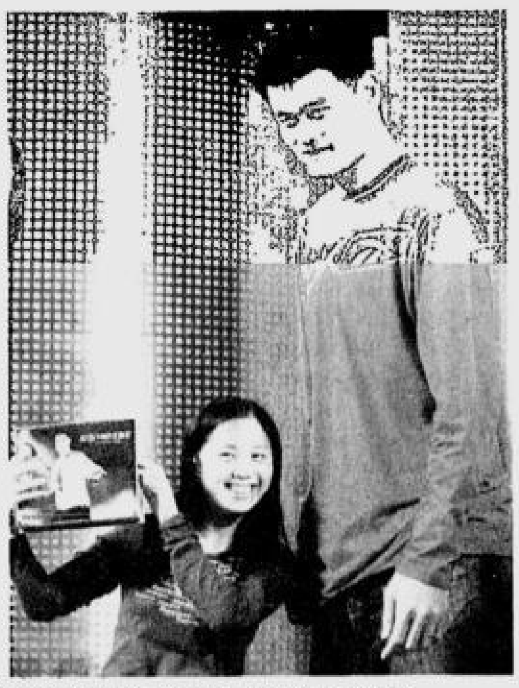
That passion is clearly there among the players too. They receive little financial reward and no ranking points for playing for their country and have to fit the matches into an already packed, year-long schedule.

Just ask Roddick. He said that watching the United States play the Davis Cup final in Fort Worth in 1992 changed his life.

Pete Sampras, Jim Courier, Andre Agassi and John McEnroe won against Switzerland and the experience made a lasting impression on the then ten-year-old Roddick.

"Just seeing something like that is pretty powerful," Roddick said.

Twins Bob and Mike Bryan, who boast a 12-1 record in Davis Cup doubles play, speak of feeling that they are ready to die to win a point. *Reuters*



ONE OF Yao Ming's commitments is personal appearances for his fans in China. AP

Yao to Houston: Sorry for delay

BEIJING—NBA SUPERSTAR YAO MING APOLogized to the Houston Rockets on Tuesday, saying he would miss key preseason training because of commitments to the Special Olympics in Shanghai. Yao, 27, said he will return to the US only after next week's launch of the October 2-11 Special Olympics in his home town. The 7-foot-6 center said he is a keen supporter of the Special Olympics and is playing a prominent role in the build-up to the event for intellectually impaired athletes. The Chinese star player is expected to miss the Rockets' October 1 media day and the first two days of team practice. Despite his apology, Yao will face automatic fines probaly amounting to around $30,000. But Yao is anticipating no friction with new coach Rick Adelman. *AFP*

IN THIS ISSUE

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BUSINESS

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Merchandise imports up 14% to $5B in July

With growth, balance of trade now stands at a deficit of $1.63B

By Michelle V. Remo

MERCHANDISE IMPORTS grew 14.3 percent to $5.04 billion in July from a year ago, due to an increase in demand for consumer goods, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

The growth accelerated from only 3.8 percent in June. Average imports growth for the first seven months of the year was recorded at 4.1 percent to $30.355 billion.

As exports reached $28.725 billion in the first seven months, the country's balance of trade stood at a deficit of $1.629 billion during the period.

BOT is the difference between revenue from exports and imports. A deficit means a country's spending for imports is higher than its export earnings.

Electronics imports in July alone reached $2.15 billion, up 12.8 percent year-on-year. These are composed mostly of items that are processed in the country to become intermediate goods for consumer electronics. Electronics is the Philippines' biggest export product.

Victor Abola, economics professor from the University of Asia and the Pacific, noted that the double-digit growth in imports in July was largely due to higher consumer spending in the country rather than an increase in capital investments by firms.

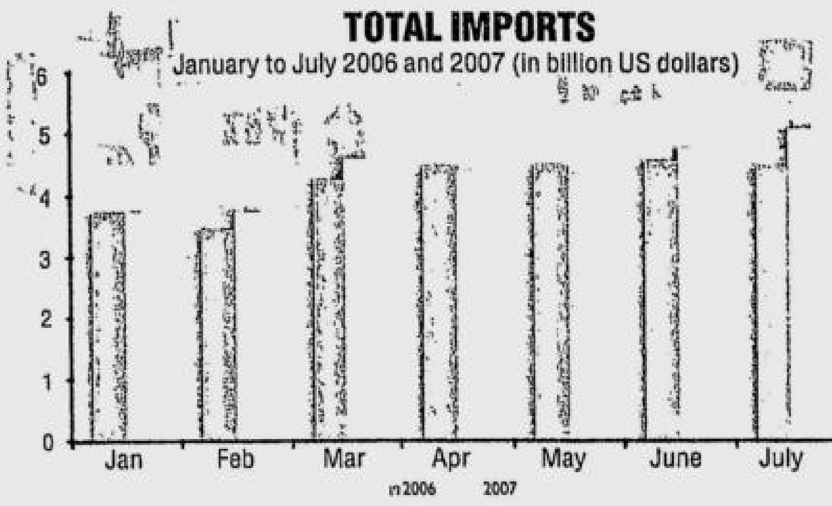
The government's economic managers had said that the country's robust growth in the first half meant an increase in aggregate income, which could be translated into higher consumer spending.

Data from the NSO showed consumer goods registered the fastest increase of 39.7 percent to $473.38 million.

Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials also boosted imports growth in July, accounting for $1.03 billion of total import bill for the month. This marked a 44.3-percent increase from a year ago.

Raw materials and intermediate goods, which includes electronics, also posted an increase, although at a slower pace. Imports of these items stood at $2.056 billion, or 15.3 percent higher than a year ago.

MERCHANDISE/ B4



TOTAL IMPORTS

January to July 2006 and 2007 (in billion US dollars)

Peso pulls back from steep rally

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY PULLED BACK AFter a strong rally, which was brought on by the US Federal Reserve's decision last week to slash its benchmark interest rate.

The local currency, which closed weaker at 45.38 from Monday's 45.155 to the US dollar, has entered a consolidation phase and would not likely break into the 44:$1 soon, said Jose Emmanuel Hilado, Banco de Oro–EPCI bank chief of trading.

"But the trend is still toward a weaker dollar and therefore, stronger regional currencies," Hilado yesterday said.

The peso yesterday closed nearer its intra-day low of 45.40 after peaking at 45.21 to the US dollar, while volume thinned to $404 million from the previous day's $507 million.

Hilado said the 50-basis-point cut in the US Fed's targeted fund rate—or the rate at which banks lend to each other—had reinvigorated the markets, which are now bound to correct.

"The rally after the Fed cut was exaggerated," he said. "It was so substantial, as if all the problems are over. But it's not, so there has to be some correction."

Yesterday, major stock markets tumbled as the International Monetary Fund warned that the US subprime mortgage crisis could go on well into 2008 and expose emerging markets to greater risks.

In its twice-a-year Global Financial Stability Report released in Washington DC, the IMF said financial risks had increased and underlying conditions worsened since its last assessment in April.

"The period ahead may be difficult, as bouts of turbulence are likely to recur and the adjustment process will take some time," the IMF said in its report. "Uncertainty about the final size of losses, and when and where

PESO/ B4

RP firms rank low in Asian study

HONG KONG—MOST PHILIPpine firms appear to have lost their grip on accountability and environmental responsibility after enjoying a bull run in the market.

Philippine companies, along with those of Indonesia, rank the least environmentally active among the firms of 11 countries assessed by brokers CLSA and lobby group Asian Corporate Governance Association.

In a study released Tuesday, CLSA and Asian Corporate Governance said large companies from Japan, Taiwan and South Korea were the most environmentally active.

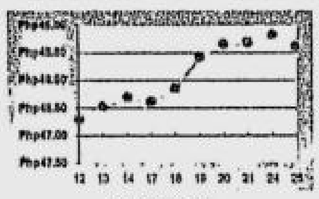
Asian governments, regulators and companies have "taken their eye off the ball" over corporate governance during the current economic boom, the study said.

Many of the region's firms have

RP FIRMS/ B5

AN UGLY swirl wraps itself around the Metro Manila skyline in this picture taken on New Year's day in 2003. Philippine companies now share the cellar with those of Indonesia, having been found to be the least environmentally active among 582 firms in 11 Asian countries. INQUIRER PHOTO

CURRENCIES



SEPTEMBER

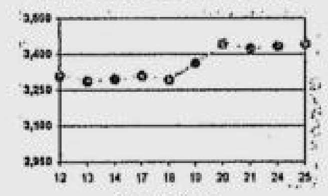
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱45.38 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 25, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



SEPTEMBER

(See stock market report on Page B6)

Shares close 0.2% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.2 percent higher due to gains in mining stocks toward the end of the trading day after a solid rise in metal prices, dealers said.

Local miners stretched recent gains as copper and nickel prices climbed on the London Metals Exchange.

But dealers said investors were mostly hesitant to take aggressive positions given lingering concerns over the health of the US economy despite last week's half-point rate cut by the US Federal Reserve.

The composite index finished up 6.22

SHARES/ B4

In manufacturing, production volume up a mere 0.6%

OUTPUT BY THE COUNTRY'S MANUfacturing sector, according to volume of production, rose by a mere 0.6 percent in July from a year ago, marking an end to its decline since January last year.

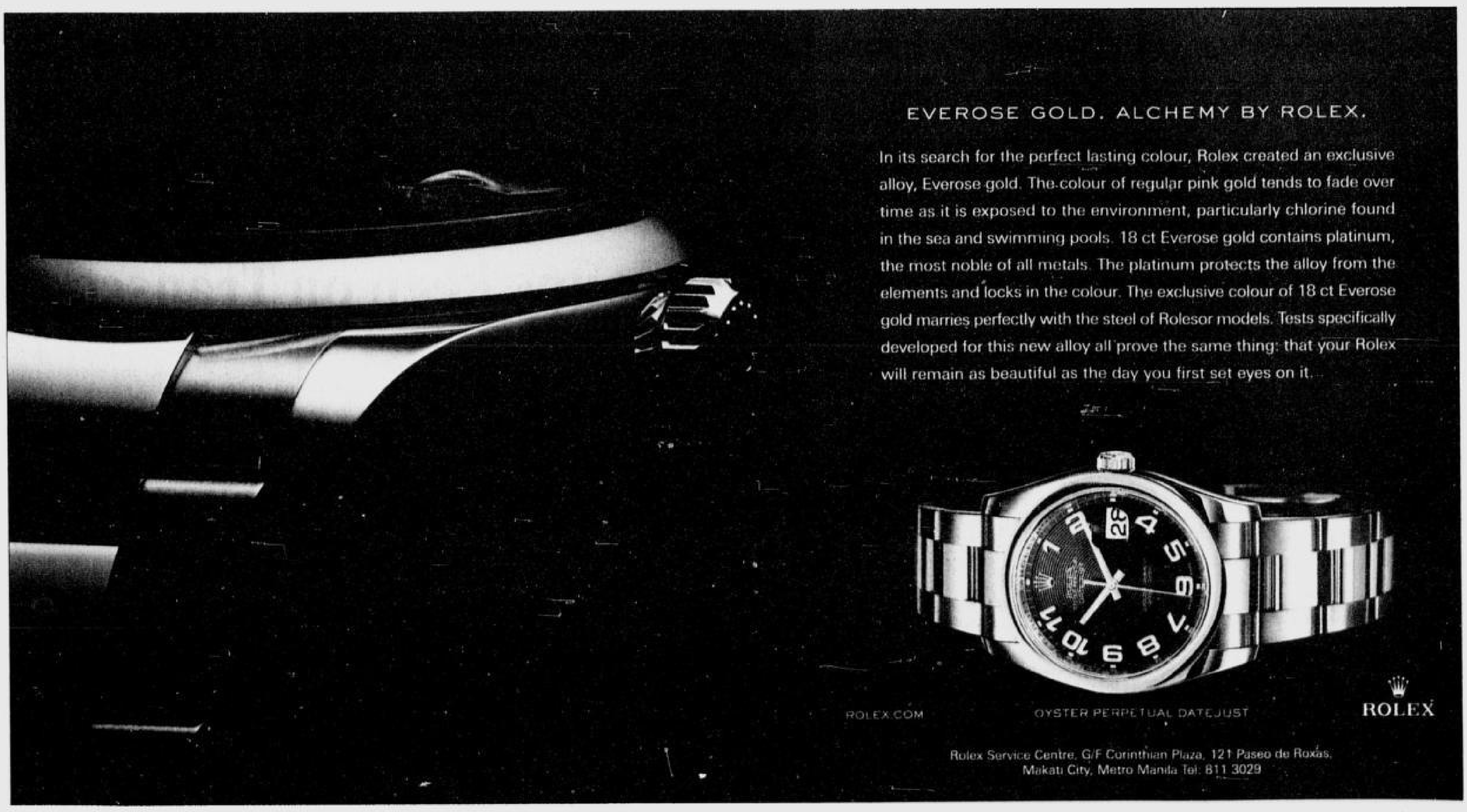
The 0.6-percent volume of production index (VoPI) in July was an improvement from the -4.4 percent output recorded in June.

Industry players said that the anemic performance of the manufacturing sector was partly brought on by high costs of electricity and labor, which make the country's business environment unfriendly to the capital- and labor-intensive manufacturing industry.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the slight increase in manufacturing output was influenced by the higher production of wood and wood products, the output of which rose by 36.3 percent; beverages, 26.4 percent; publishing and printing, 22.3 percent; petroleum products, 22.1 percent; non-metallic mineral products, 12.7 percent; and fabricated metal products, 11.5 percent.

The increase in the volume of production by the manufacturing sector was, however, partially offset by the decline in output of the following sub-sectors: non-electrical machinery, production of which was down 30.7 percent; basic metals, -29.2 percent; tobacco, -26.4 percent; footwear and wearing apparel, -20 percent; textiles, -19.7 percent; rubber products, -16.8 percent; paper and paper products, -11.9 percent; and chemical products, -10.6 percent.

IN MANUFACTURING/ B4



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Companies urged to tap Dutch partners

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A DUTCH DEVELOPMENT agency yesterday urged local companies to tap an Amsterdam-backed business matching program, in which the Philippines was made eligible along with 39 other developing countries.

The Agency for International Business and Cooperation (EVD) said in a statement that local companies may forge possible partnerships with their Dutch counterparts through the Development Cooperation matchmaking facility.

EVD explained that the program was meant for countries in Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Asia, where "serious companies" are often on the lookout for reliable business partners abroad.

The agency added that through the DCM, which may be accessed through the Netherlands Embassy in Manila, local firms are put in touch with suitable Dutch business partners.

"The goal is to stimulate investment in (countries like the Philippines)," said EVD, which is running the DCM program on behalf of the Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation.

Interested firms are required to submit a proposal for a cooperative effort with a Dutch business, which the embassy would assess with the help of its Philippine network.

For its part, EVD is tasked to identify Dutch businesses matching the local company's profile.

If a suitable match is found, the local company would receive a voucher worth 5,000 euros, which could be used to hire a Dutch consultant to help explore and define the cooperative effort with the Dutch business partner.

After that, the local firm is expected to visit the Netherlands to work with the Dutch partner firm a joint action plan.

Six months after the visit, the consultant would conduct an evaluation to determine if the activities have produced a basis for further cooperation.

A part of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, EVD supports businesses and public organizations active in the areas of international commerce and development cooperation.

EVD does this by disseminating information on foreign markets, by promoting Dutch business interests abroad and by providing individual advice.

The agency is involved in a large number of programs and makes use of many established regulations to offer structural and financial support to specific sectors and businesses.

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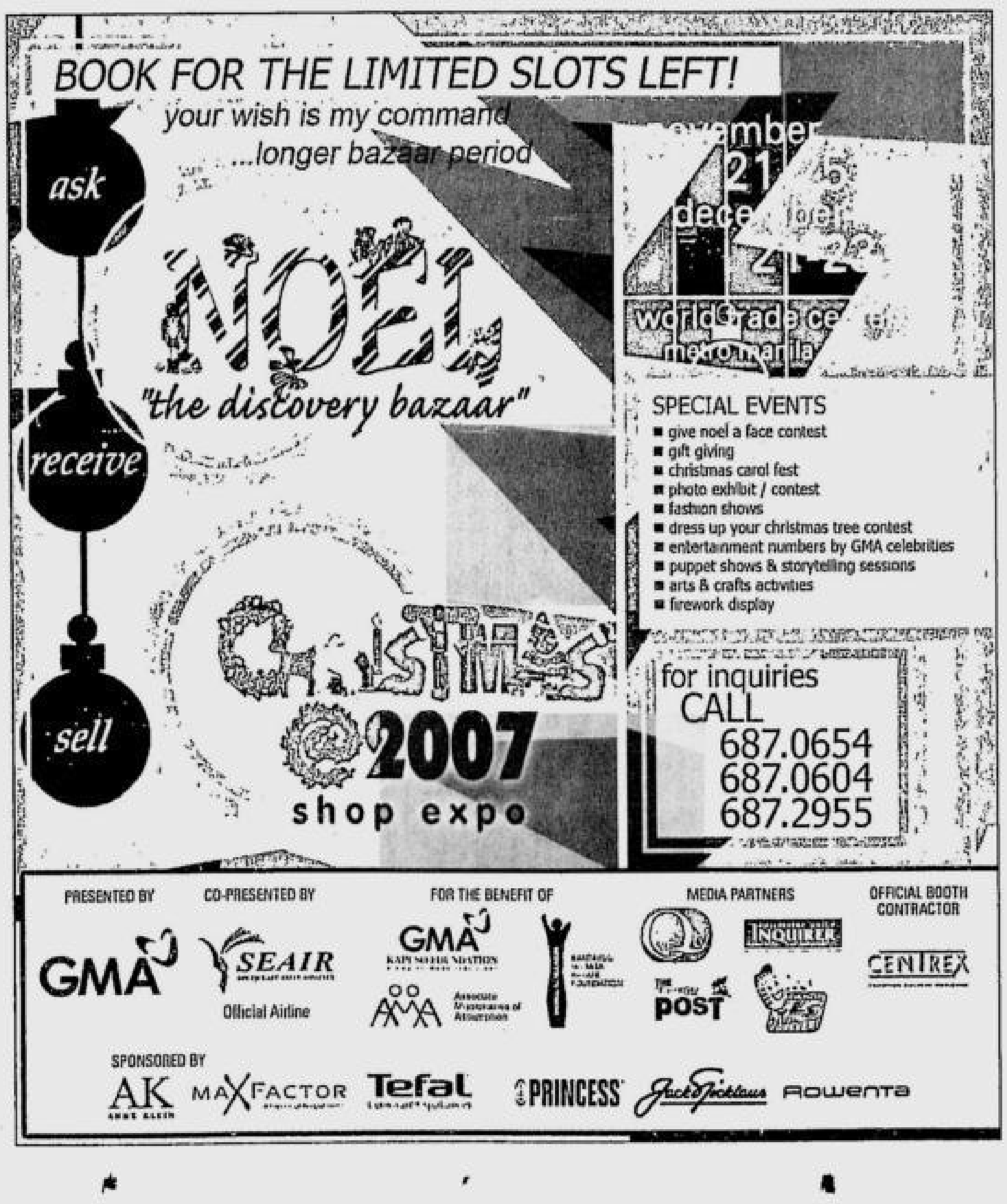
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RP firms target 10% of outsourcing mart

Industry unveils program to meet goal

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING Association of the Phils. (BPA/P) has completed its roadmap designed for the industry to corner 10 percent of the global BPO market and raise $13 billion in export revenues in two years.

The road map and implementation strategy will be presented during the Sept. 27 summit of US-based CEOs and other business leaders in New York.

The summit will be held on the sidelines of the 62nd United Nations General Assembly.

To put the road map into action, the industry group has created three working groups that will focus on talent development, next-wave cities and the Philippine business environment.

"The talent working group coordinates with educational institutions and human resource managers to help sustain the number of skilled workers for the industry," BPA/P CEO Oscar Sañez told the INQUIRER.

BPA/P wants to recruit one million workers and executives for the BPO industry for the next two years.

The industry currently employs some 250,000 workers, 40 percent of which come from schools in the National Capital Region.

The industry is still predominantly call center-driven but locators have started looking at higher-value services such as HR and finance, accounting, equity research and financial analysis.

Due to industry expansion, the industry raised the need for office space that satisfies connectivity and proximity to a steady pool of quality workers.

"The BPO industry is not just Manila. Having 90 percent of locators here increases pressure on recruitment and space. Quality graduates are harder to come by and office rental rates increased by 25 percent during the past two years, so we created a working group tasked to identify and help develop the next BPO hubs," Sañez said.

The second working group benchmarks potential hubs on such matters as telecommunications connectivity.

The third working group also deals closely with the Department of Trade Industry as well as the Philippine Economic Zone Authority to make it easier for locators to do business in the country and to ensure continuity for incentives.

"We are very excited about this road show in New York, which we are positioning as a summit. This is unlike anything we have ever done. Before it was all just promises. Now our industry has a road map and a strategy for implementing it," Sañez said.

Buying your first life insurance policy

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

LYNN HAS BEEN A CLOSE FRIEND of my eldest daughter Clarissa since their high school days. They went their separate ways in college, but they have kept in touch all these years.

You could say Lynn is member of my extended family. Besides, we live in the same block in Makati. But I had not seen her since her mother's funeral a couple of years ago. Her father had passed away a year earlier.

Lynn's parents did not have any insurance at all. The heavy expenses for their final illnesses wiped out their savings. Lynn does not want her family to go face the same financial problems when it is her turn to go.

Now 52, with two daughters in college, Lynn wants to buy her first life insurance policy.

Last week, over lunch of *laing* and Bicol Express at my house, she wanted my opinion on a life insurance proposal she had received from an agent.

The policy was basically a Whole Life, or, as called in other companies, an Ordinary Life for P500,000. The premium payment period was 15 years. Then there were some additional benefits. As a result, the premium was quite high.

Each life insurance company offers various types of policies. But, mathematically speaking, all policies are equivalent, or equal in value. The more benefits you choose to buy, the more premium you pay. After all, a life insurance company is not a charitable institution. It is designed to make profits for its stockholders.

You should choose the policy that fits your need. In the case of Lynn, she needs a policy that will give the most death benefit at the least premium. She does not really need the so-called living benefits, or she does not really need any money from the policy while she is alive.

I suggested to Lynn a simple Whole Life policy. It is the cheapest among the permanent plans in the market because the premium is spread out from age 52 to age 100.

"You mean," asked Lynn, "I will be paying premium for the rest of my life?" I replied, "Yes, but the rest of your life could be up to next month only. While crossing Ayala Avenue, you could get run over by a truck. If you leave for 20 years, and I hope you do, then you can decide what to do with the policy by then. Anyway, do not think of what will happen 15 years from now. The future will take of itself. Think what might happen to you next week."

I also suggested two riders. First, the Waiver of Premium due to Disability; if Lynn is unable to work for a living because of any disability, the premium is waived and the policy continues to be in force. Second, Accidental Death Benefit; if death is due to an accident, the death benefit is doubled.

The following day, I phoned three companies to send me their quotations. I sent the cheapest quote to Lynn. Based on her budget, she decided how much insurance to buy. She will have to fill an application form. To avoid estate taxes, I suggested that she should designate her husband and the two daughters as irrevocable beneficiaries.

Then, she will have to take the usual medical examination, which she should pass. When the policy is issued, she will have to pay the first quarterly premium. Finally, the policy will be in effect.

Just in case Lynn gets seriously sick, I am also shopping around for a medical policy. But that is another story.

Air Philippines plans E. Visayas flights

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—AIR Philippines will start operating in Eastern Visayas with Tacloban-Cebu as its main route.

Glen Vallecera, regional manager of Philippine Airlines, said that the Tacloban-Cebu service could start by the second week of October.

Air Philippines, a subsidiary of Philippine Airlines, decided to operate in the region because of the strong clamor of Eastern Visayas residents for a Tacloban-Cebu route, Vallecera said.

Cebu is one of the region's main trading partners.

"Right now, it is safe to say that we have good feelings that our Tacloban-Cebu flight could result in good profits for the company. That is why we intend to have a three times a week schedule," Vallecera said.

He also noted that the proposed regular Air Philippines flight between Cebu and Tacloban City would boost the region's economy.

"Commercial interactions will be enhanced. Connectivity among our people from the two areas will also be helped," Vallecera added.

If the plan pushes through, the company would be using a 737 type-of aircraft, which can accommodate 110 passengers, Vallecera said.

Five groups keen on Transco

By Abigail L. Ho

FIVE GROUPS, INCLUDING ONE led by food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., have submitted prequalification proposals to bid for the 25-year National Transmission Corp. concession.

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., however, declined to name the five groups.

But SMC, Southeast Asia's largest food and drinks group, told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday that it had formed a consortium with a Malaysia's state-run Tenaga Nasional Berhad power firm and US private equity firm Texas Pacific to bid for the Philippines' power grid.

Last week, listed firms A. Brown Co. Inc. and Metro Pacific Investments Corp. disclosed that they were among the five that submitted proposals.

Both firms have foreign partners that were both technically and financially capable of operating and maintaining a national power transmission grid.

The prequalification documents were submitted under Monte Oro Grid Resources Corp., a wholly owned company of Monte Oro Resources and Energy Inc., in which A. Brown has an 18.74-percent interest.

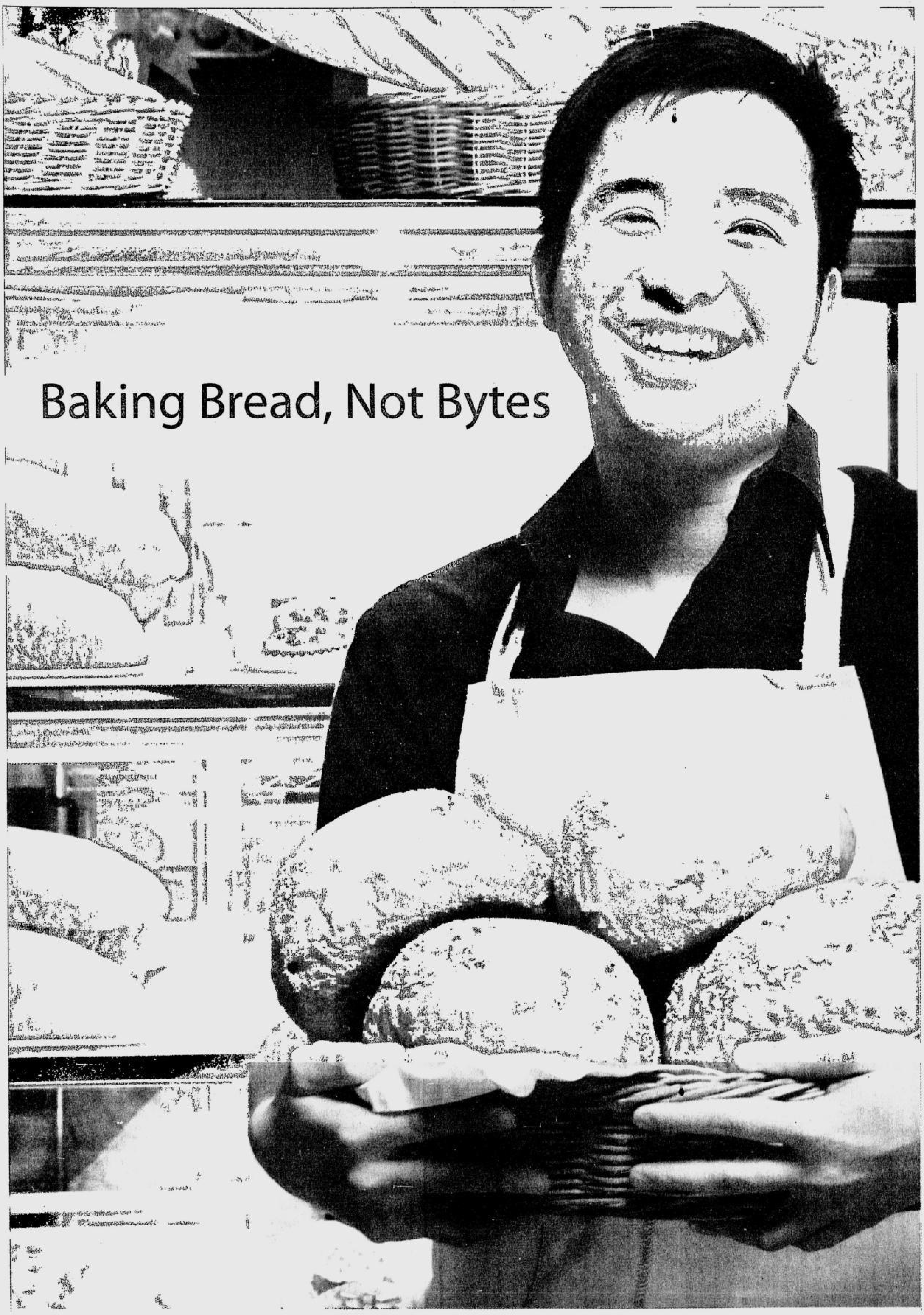
Metro Pacific, on the other hand, via subsidiary Two Rivers Pacific Holdings Corp., was participating in the prequalification process for the Transco concession together with Italy's Terna-Rete Elettrica Nazionale.

According to PSALM, the five groups were most likely encouraged by the Asian Development Bank's commitment to provide a standby facility support of up to $250 million for the winning concessionaire.

The prequalification process is an important part of the privatization exercise as it allows PSALM to assess the financial and technical capabilities of potential investors.

It likewise ensures that only serious bidders with proven domestic or international experience in operating and maintaining a transmission system will be given the chance to participate in the Dec. 12 bidding for the 25-year Transco concession.

This will be PSALM's fifth attempt to sell the 25-year license to operate the national grid, earlier valued at $3 billion, after previous attempts failed due to political uncertainties and doubts about the predictability of profits.



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Hike in cap on firms' overseas investments seen

Second wave of BSP's forex liberalization

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS plans to further jack up the limit on local firms' overseas investments.

This will form part of the second wave of foreign exchange liberalization which is being worked out by banking regulators.

The first round of post-Asian currency crisis forex liberalization implemented last April, the BSP increased the limit on outward investments that a Philippine resident can pursue without seeking the monetary institution's approval from $6 million to $12 million per year.

The original plan back then was to raise the limit to $20 million per year, but this was opposed by certain Monetary Board members who preferred to pursue a slower pace of liberalization.

The blueprint for the second wave of liberalization is expected to be finalized before the year's end.

Any amount in excess of the prescribed investment limit requires prior BSP approval and registration if the funds to be invested are obtained from Philippine banks.

Allowing local firms to explore more investment opportunities overseas is one of the measures adopted by the BSP to ease upward pressures on the peso caused mainly by the strong inflows of foreign investments and remittances from overseas Filipino workers since the start of the year.

Another measure adopted by the BSP earlier this year was the increase in banks' allowable foreign currency purchases as a share of their unencumbered capital—known as the overbought limit—from 2.5 percent or $5 million, whichever is lower, to a pre-Asian crisis ratio of 20 percent or $50 million, whichever is lower.

The higher overbought cap was matched by a similar 20 percent or $50-million limit on the oversold position or the amount of dollars the banks are allowed to sell to the open market.

The BSP also raised the limit on foreign exchange that clients can buy from banks for noncommercial purposes such as overseas travel, to as much as $15,000 from the earlier cap of $5,000 per transaction. The "no-splitting" restriction and notarization requirement for applications to purchase foreign exchange was also scrapped.

In the meantime, investments overseas by residents and local companies hit $1.8 billion from January to June this year.

BOT plants turned over to PNOC-EDC

By Abigail L. Ho

BARELY TWO MONTHS BEFORE ITS FULL privatization, PNOC Energy Development Corp. yesterday assumed the operations of the last four geothermal plants remaining under build-operate-transfer agreements.

In yesterday's turnover ceremony in Leyte, plant operator Ormat Leyte Co. Ltd. turned over four optimization plants—the Mahanagdong A and B Topping Cycle Plants, Tongonan Topping Cycle Plant and Malitbog Bottoming Cycle Plant—to PNOC-EDC. These plants have total installed capacity of 51 megawatts (MW).

Other BOT plants that PNOC-EDC had taken over earlier included the 132-MW Upper Mahiao, 232.5-MW Malitbog and 180-MW Mahanagdong geothermal power facilities.

These were turned over by CalEnergy International Ltd. this year and last year at the end of the 10-year cooperation period under the energy conversion agreements covering the plants.

The Leyte Optimization Plants, together with the Upper Mahiao, Malitbog and Mahanagdong facilities, use steam from the Leyte Geothermal Production Field (LGPF).

The LGPF likewise provides steam to the 112.5-MW Tongonan 1 geothermal power plant that the National Power Corp. currently owns and which the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. will eventually place on the auction block.

The LGPF is PNOC-EDC's biggest steamfield, accounting for nearly 60 percent of the company's total installed capacity. Apart from LGPF, PNOC-EDC also operates geothermal production fields in Southern Negros, Northern Negros, Bicol and North Cotabato.

PNOC-EDC is preparing for the final leg of its privatization, with parent firm Philippine National Oil Co. attracting 24 potential bidders for its remaining 60-percent stake in PNOC-EDC.

₱81M released for agri projects

By Amy R. Remo

THE BUDGET DEPARTMENT HAS RELEASED P81.63 million to the Department of Agriculture as counterpart funding for five projects under the Japan Grant Assistance for Underprivileged Farmers.

Known as the Kennedy Round 2 (2KR), the 300-million yen grant aims to help Filipino farmers living below the poverty line.

Among the recipients of the yen grant is the DA's Barangay Food Terminal project.

Food terminals help make basic food commodities available and affordable to consumers in poverty-stricken areas, said Agriculture Undersecretary and National Agricultural and Fishery Council executive director Bernie Fondevilla.

Another beneficiary is the Regional Freshwater Fisheries Center's Continuing Capability for an Integrated Development of Bicol Freshwater Fisheries Project.

Fondevilla said this project provides both small fishers and commercial producers with alternatives in addressing aquaculture production surplus, such as the processing of excess produce into value-added products.

Under this project, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources will upgrade the Regional Freshwater Fisheries Center operations in Bula, Camarines Sur.

The rehabilitation of the Aganan River Irrigation System in Jaro, Iloilo; Assessment of the Agricultural and Fishery Council as Social Mobilization Agents; and the Expanded Special Vehicle Loan Fund are also recipients of the 2KR grant.

Peso . . .

From page B1

they will be revealed, will likely continue to keep market sentiment and conditions unsettled in the near term."

Hilado said the local financial markets were back on a wait-and-see mode, which shall result in a tight trading range for the peso in the days ahead.

He added that the local currency would not likely climb back to the 44:$1 yet unless there were strong foreign inflows. He added that the peso's ascent had already been too fast, coming from the 46:$1 level shortly after ousted President Joseph Estrada was found guilty of plunder by the Sandiganbayan.

The third quarter is also a weak season for the peso due to large dollar requirements for importation, as enterprises beef up stocks in anticipation of strong demand in the last quarter at the onset of the holidays.

In manufacturing, production volume up a mere 0.6%

From page B1

Manufacturing production in terms of value also rose, with the value of production index (VaPI) settling at 1.4 percent in July from a year ago. This was a reversal of the -3 percent recorded in June.

Unlike movement of production volume, the increase or decrease in value of production is influenced by prices.

The NSO also said the manufacturing sector registered an increase in net sales. The volume of net sales index hit 2.1 percent, reversing the -0.9 percent recorded the previous month.

Value of net sales was up, with its index hitting 3.3 percent, better than the one percent recorded the previous month.

Producers Price Index (PPI), which measures the increase in factory prices of domestically produced goods, settled at 0.8 percent in July, slowing down from 1.4 percent the previous month.

Average capacity utilization rate, which measures how much of the sector's production capacity was actually used, was recorded at 80.3 percent in July, almost unchanged from the 80.2 percent in June, the NSO added. Michelle V. Remo

Merchandise . . .

From page B1

Imports of capital goods dropped 4.2 percent to $1.418 billion from a year ago. These items include electrical machinery and telecommunication equipment.

Abola said the country was expected to post growth in imports, but not as fast as the government expected. He said 2007 imports could grow between 6 and 8 percent. The government's target is 10 percent.

The United States remained the Philippines' biggest source of imports, accounting for 12.5 percent or $631.03 million of the total import bill for the month.

Other top sources of imports for July were Japan ($567.56 million of total imports), Saudi Arabia ($561.98 million), Singapore ($530.8 million), and China ($383.93 million).

Shares . . .

From page B1

points at 3,440.67 after moving in a narrow range of 3,415.63 and 3,454.20. Volume totaled 3.5 billion shares worth P3.7 billion ($81.7 million).

Gainers outnumbered losers 65 to 46, while 48 stocks ended unchanged.

The broader all-share index rose 5.15 points or 0.2 percent to 2,153.89. *AFP*

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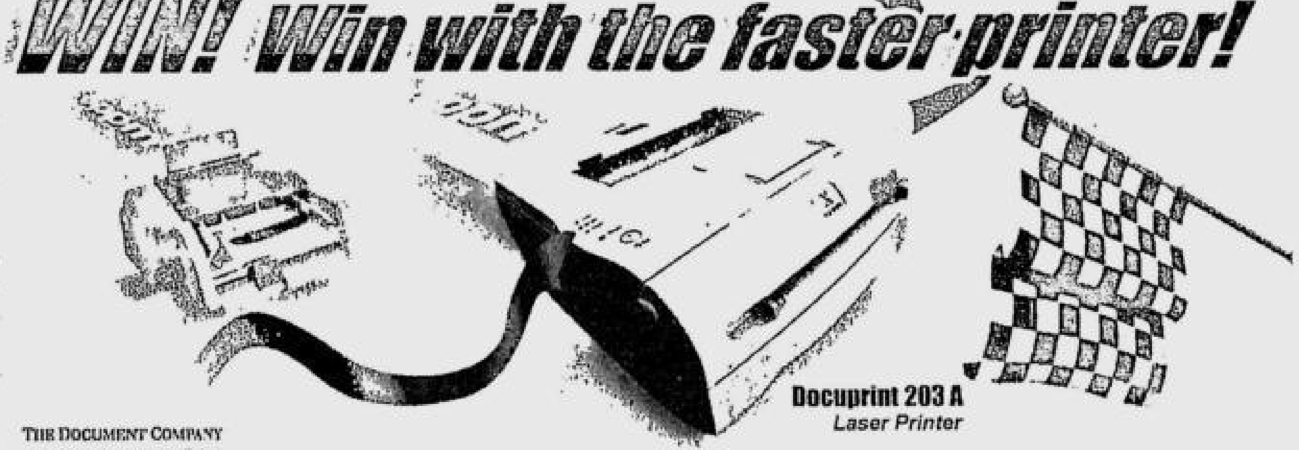

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RP firms rank . . .

From page B1

avoided seriously grappling with the issue of climate change, often perceiving it as simply a problem for heavy polluters, the study found.

Also, the complacency at many levels of the region's financial system has made it vulnerable to any reversal of the strong stock market performance.

"There has been a palpable lessening of the pressure for (corporate governance) reform around the region ... and many governments, regulators and market participants have taken their eye off the governance ball," it said.

The report studied 582 listed companies in 11 Asian markets and examined the governance performance based on discipline, transparency, independence, responsibility, accountability, fairness and environmental responsibility.

It found that the average corporate governance score for companies in Asia, not including Japan, only rose by 1.2 points.

Companies had also failed to acknowledge their impact on climate change.

"It has not yet sunk in for most corporate managers in Asia that whatever business one is in, it will have a carbon footprint," said Amar Gill from CLSA, author of the report. "With a carbon footprint comes the responsibility to minimize, if not actually negate the cost of carbon emissions."

Gill said that unless companies recognize their role in carbon emissions, they could be caught out by consumer activism in western countries placing pressure on companies they supply to conform to higher standards. *AFP*

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Philpost, PNOC-EC lined up for privatization in '08

Proceeds to enable gov't to post balanced budget

By Michelle V. Remo and Abigail L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT HAS included Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC) and the state's stake in Philippine Postal Corp. in the list of assets to be privatized next year.

Proceeds from the government's privatization efforts were expected to help the government achieve next year its goal of achieving a balanced budget position, which has been in the red since 1998.

Established in 1976, PNOC-EC is the oil and gas exploration subsidiary of PNOC. It is tasked to search for indigenous sources of energy. The value of its assets has yet to be determined.

The company has tapped Citibank to serve as its financial adviser for the privatization plan.

In an interview with reporters, PNOC president Antonio Cailao said 60 percent of PNOC's equity should be transferred to private sector hands by December or January 2008.

The privatization would also include the state firm's 10-percent stake in the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project, he said.

PNOC-EC operates a 3-megawatt plant in San Antonio, Isabela, that now supplies electricity to some 10,000 households through a local electric cooperative.

In the meantime, the government had long wanted to sell its shares in Philpost but its losses made it difficult to entice investors. Philpost finally registered a net income of P99 million and a gross revenue of P3.67 billion in 2004.

The government officially lined up Philpost for privatization in 2006, but it was sidetracked as privatization agencies had been focused on bigger assets.

The Postal Service Act of 1992 mandates the government to sell 55 percent of its 100-percent stake in Philpost.

Last year, the DOF said it was choosing between selling 55 percent of Philpost through an initial public offering or a direct sale.

"This (privatization) will enhance the quality of services provided by these companies and enable the government to focus on core areas where private sector participation is not available or is inadequate," the DOF said in a paper to be presented to the Senate tomorrow during a hearing on the proposed 2008 budget for the DOF.

Other assets to be sold next year are the government's shares in San Miguel Corp. and Manila Electric Co., and the property that houses Food Terminal Inc. in Taguig.

Scandinavian firm buys 50% of Ionics unit

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

NOTE A.B., ONE OF SCANDINAVIA'S leading electronics equipment manufacturers, has agreed to buy 50 percent of the shares of Ionics EMS Ltd. (IEL)

The Cayman Islands-registered IEL, is a 100 percent owned subsidiary of Singapore-listed Ionics EMS Inc. (EMS), the electronics manufacturing arm of Philippine Stock Exchange-listed Ionics Inc.

IEL has manufacturing facilities in China.

EMS signed an agreement with Note on Sept. 23, 2007, Ionics Inc. corporate secretary Manuel Roxas said in a disclosure to the PSE.

Roxas said EMS believed its partnership with Note would enable it to penetrate the European market.

In September 1999, Ionics Inc. spun off its electronic manufacturing services worth around P530 million to EMS. Ionics Inc. then ceased to be a manufacturing company and became a a holding company.

Note is listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange in Sweden.

"I'm delighted that we're starting a strategic collaboration with Ionics EMS now, one of Asia's leading EMS providers. This acquisition brings us cost-efficient production capacity in China and Asia," Arne Forslund, Note president and CEO said in a statement posted on the Stockholm bourse.

Ionics EMS chair Lawrence Qua said this deal would give Ionics a "link to the European market."

Allied Bank plans to raise capital

ALLIED BANKING CORP. IS IN talks with three foreign investment banks for a planned capital-raising exercise.

Allied Bank president Reynaldo Maclang said the bank was scheduled to hold talks with Dutch financial giant ING Bank NV, UBS and another foreign bank.

The options being considered by the bank include the issuance of tier-2 notes and the additional offering of stocks.

The amount to be raised has yet to be set.

Last August, Allied Bank said it was hoping to raise as much as P5 billion by offering a combination of hybrid and tier 2 notes. The bank then hired Dutch financial giant ING Bank NV as arranger and lead underwriter for the proposed offering. Its board approved the capital-raising issue in a resolution dated July 25, 2007. It did not say where and when the bonds would be issued.

The hybrid note component will qualify as core or tier 1 capital and the remainder will be in the form of subordinated bonds that will qualify as tier 2, or supplementary capital.

Hybrid tier 1 capital instruments have equity-like features that make them acceptable as tier 1 or core capital. They are also "perpetual" and redeemable by the issuer only, subject to central bank approval.

They may be in the form of unsecured subordinated debt or preferred shares and allow banks to absorb losses similar to a common equity.

The bulk of Allied Bank's shares are held by the government under a sequestration order. Anti-graft court Sandiganbayan has lifted the sequestration on the bank but the government has filed a motion for reconsideration.

The sequestration issue is also the remaining stumbling block to a plan to merge Allied Bank with Philippine National Bank, a bigger commercial bank. Both banks are controlled by taipan Lucio Tan.

Raising the additional core capital will require the approval of shareholders but the tier-2 capital raising plan can proceed without shareholders' approval.

Elizabeth S. Lacson

Paramount Hotels to manage Pico de Loro

PARAMOUNT HOTELS & FACILITIES Management Inc. was appointed by a unit of SM Investments Corp. to manage the group's beach club in its eco-tourism project in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Costa Del Hamilo Inc., the developer of the beach club and a subsidiary of SMIC, appointed Paramount to manage Pico De Loro Beach & Country Club in Hamilo Coast.

Due to be operational in the third quarter of 2008, Pico De Loro Beach & Country Club is an exclusive membership club featuring resort, recreational and leisure facilities, SMIC said in a disclosure to the stock exchange.

Paramount was established in 1997 as the first all-Filipino property management company to introduce internationally accepted hospitality industry standards to the local property market. It specializes in property management, encompassing hotel management, food & beverage operations, and restaurant franchising.

Also, the Paramount team also forms part of Microtel Inns & Suites (Pilipinas) Inc., the Philippine master franchisor of the Microtel Inns & Suites brand.

Early this year, SMIC said it was spending P5-P6 billion over the next five years to pursue the first phase of the 5,800-hectare "Hamilo Coast" beach-resort community in Nasugbu, Batangas.

The initial phase of Hamilo Coast, dubbed "Pico de Loro" will span 40 hectares and will feature 11 condominium buildings consisting of 1,500 units.

Elizabeth S. Lacson

Philtown sign ₱1-B fund package

PHILIPPINE TOWNSHIPS INC. (PHILTOWN), the property arm of food and beverage firm RFM Corp., said it had signed a P1-billion structured funding package for its residential condominium project in Makati.

The project, dubbed "Metropolitan Tower," is a 47-story residential condominium in Makati.

The agreement was concluded with Filipinas Investments Ltd. (Philippines Branch Office), the local branch of Capmark's Asia operations.

Capmark Financial Group Inc. (Capmark) is a global company engaged in lending and mortgage banking, investments-funds management, and servicing.

Philtown president Eleuterio D. Coronel said, "the agreement with FIL is uniquely structured to provide sufficient capital to be drawn upon over the development period."

Established in 1995, Philtown boasts of having a sizeable land bank of 200 hectares for development.

Elizabeth S. Lacson

CURRENCIES

September 25, 2007

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.710177	1.000000	45.1790
Japan	Yen	0.006185	0.008709	0.3935
United Kingdom	Pound	1.435765	2.021700	91.3384
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091342	0.128619	5.8109
Switzerland	Franc	0.605694	0.852878	38.5322
Canada	Dollar	0.708688	0.997904	45.0843
Singapore	Dollar	0.473609	0.666889	30.1294
Australia	Dollar	0.615511	0.866701	39.1567
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.883908	2.652731	119.8477
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.190136	0.267730	12.0958
Brunei	Dollar	0.472035	0.664673	30.0293
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000110	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.022228	0.031299	1.4141
UAE	Dirham	0.193588	0.272591	12.3154
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.408100	63.6165
Korea	Won	0.000771	0.001086	0.0491
China	Yuan**	0.094556	0.133145	6.0154
Denmark	Kroner	0.134142	0.188886	8.5337
India	Rupee	0.017979	0.025316	1.1438
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.207291	0.291886	13.1871
New Zealand	Dollar	0.528878	0.744713	33.6454
Sweden	Kroner	0.109053	0.153558	6.9376
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021573	0.030377	1.3724

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Sept. 24, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Sept. 24, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 25, 2007)

52-WKS HIGH	52-WKS LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	9	9	8.7	8.8	105,000
73	38.6	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	56	56	55	55.5	942,200
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	66.5	67	66	67	591,000
935	630	China Banking Corp.	840	860	840	855	9,050
23.5	16.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	770,000
75.5	39.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company	53	53	52.5	52.5	2,676,100
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	47	47.5	47	47.5	840,800
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	61	63	60	63	5,000
39.57	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	21.75	22	21.5	21.75	1,789,800
90	49.5	Security Bank Corp.	68	68.5	68	68	366,100
66	42.53	Union Bank of the Philippines	56	56	56	56	3,620
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	3.95	4	3.95	4	90,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.88	1.9	1.86	1.86	297,000
16.25	3.35	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.5	374,100
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.86	0.93	0.86	0.93	1,600,000
42	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	5,000
1,805.00	1,560.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,780.00	1,780.00	1,780.00	1,780.00	100
5	2.95	Nat'l Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.45	3.55	3.45	3.55	3,354,000
3.1	1.02	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.94	1.96	1.92	1.92	138,000
1,005.00	230	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	770	770	760	765	52,370
2,335.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,275.00	2,275.00	2,275.00	2,275.00	130
1.94	1.3	Vantage Corp	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.54	420,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp	5	5.1	5	5.1	1,172,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.29	0.31	0.29	0.31	1,590,000
70	47.5	First Gen Corp.	63.5	63.5	62	62	337,000
92	49	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	74.5	74.5	74	74	84,300
15	8.8	Manila Water Company Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.75	1,228,300
105.45	17.27	Manila Electric Company	82	82.5	81.5	82	1,843,800
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.2	61,041,000
6.5	3.9	Petron Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.6	4,408,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.1	7.7	7.1	7.7	814,000
2.5	1.7	Salcon Power Corp	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	5,000
1.9	0.96	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	558,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.1	Alaska Milk Corp	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	289,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	12,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	500
61	34	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53	53.5	53	53	1,010,800
0.98	0.42	RFM Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.8	0.81	1,690,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	12,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. A	60	60	59.5	60	55,900
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. B	61	61	60.5	60.5	63,800
0.66	0.22	Swift Foods Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	3,990,700
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	290,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.73	EEI Corp	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	185,000
9.2	4.9	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.1	8.4	8	8.3	3,359,000
7	1.38	Republic Cement Corp.	4	4.2	4	4.2	119,000
2	0.28	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.16	1.22	1.16	1.18	27,525,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.1	4.15	4.05	4.15	1,178,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp	1	1	1	1	70,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
7.4	5.1	Panasonic Manufacturing Phils. Corp	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	2,000
0.75	0.125	Picop Resources Inc	0.39	0.43	0.39	0.43	83,180,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.1	25,970,000
1.28	0.22	APC Group Inc.	0.78	0.86	0.78	0.85	36,770,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. A	3.15	3.15	2.9	2.95	2,252,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	159,200,000
9.7	5.1	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.8	7	6.8	6.9	844,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	59,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	4.95	5	4.85	4.9	9,536,000
1.38	0.51	Alsons Cons. Resources Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.91	360,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.24	2.3	2.22	2.22	953,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	3	3	3	3	12,000
590	375	Ayala Corp.	500	500	497.5	500	504,040
15.25	7.22	Bacnotan Cons. Industries Inc.	14	15.25	14	15.25	418,000
5.8	1.22	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4	4	3.95	4	2,281,000
10.25	3.7	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.6	9	8.6	8.9	3,152,000
6.9	1.06	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.95	4.1	3.9	4.1	44,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	590,000
3.55	1.26	House of Investments Inc.	1.86	2.04	1.86	2.04	327,000
14.5	5.9	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	9.8	10.25	9.8	10	4,173,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.76	1.86	1.76	1.84	615,000
0.8	0.205	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	60,000
11.5	1.1	Multitech Investments Corp.	5.7	6.1	5.5	6	13,109,000
8.2	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc.	6.9	7	6.9	7	106,000
0.215	0.01	Pacifica Inc. A	0.165	0.175	0.165	0.17	176,840,000
1.54	0.72	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.75	0.74	0.75	100,000
0.75	0.18	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.44	0.48	0.44	0.46	10,280,000
452.5	230.17	SM Investments Corp.	360	365	360	365	257,140
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,000
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.41	0.44	0.4	0.43	46,470,000
1.06	0.59	Solid Group Inc.	0.71	0.77	0.71	0.77	80,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	200,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18	18	18	18	8,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc	0.38	0.4	0.37	0.39	33,420,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.96	A Brown Company Inc.	1.46	1.54	1.46	1.5	703,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	8	8.1	7.9	7.9	12,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.73	0.75	0.73	0.75	470,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	15	15.75	15	15.5	2,939,800
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	2,131,000
2.9	1.3	Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	5,000
0.86	0.31	Crown Equities Inc.	0.63	0.66	0.63	0.65	3,400,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.47	0.51	0.47	0.49	7,410,000
0.99	0.5	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.69	10,700,000
0.47	0.05	Ever Gotesco Res. and Hold'gs Inc.	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.28	13,800,000
1.48	0.51	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.14	1.18	1.12	1.16	8,698,000
2.44	1.18	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.48	1.54	1.48	1.52	110,895,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.63	0.64	0.62	0.62	2,060,000
4.4	1.73	Megaworld Corp.	3.1	3.25	3.1	3.15	62,285,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.38	0.39	6,220,000
0.87	0.32	Phil. Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.49	2,560,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	10,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	16.75	16.75	16	16.25	2,114,200
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	3.8	4.05	3.8	4.05	18,544,000
13.5	6.64	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	1,946,200
3.25	0.98	Shang Properties Inc.	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	8,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.65	0.67	0.65	0.67	1,470,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.29	11,690,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	4.85	5	4.65	5	1,661,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	16.25	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31.5	32	31.5	32	63,200
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc	9.2	9.5	9.2	9.5	326,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.26	1.3	3,262,000
1,445.00	1,055.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,405.00	1,445.00	1,400.00	1,445.00	176,010
2,855.00	2,150.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,805.00	2,810.00	2,785.00	2,800.00	90,500
7.9	4.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	974,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.195	3,470,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9	9.7	8.5	9.1	24,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.5	646,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.032	0.033	0.032	0.032	27,600,000
29.5	8	Imperial Resources Inc. A	12.5	15	12.5	15	2,100
0.32	0.043	Island Info and Technology Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	9,860,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.22	1.26	1.22	1.24	152,000
0.0725	0.028	PhilWeb Com Inc.	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.049	87,400,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Grp Int'l. Inc.	2.6	2.75	2.55	2.6	393,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	115,000
37	16.25	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc	34.5	37	34.5	36	2,425,400
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	5	Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	1,000
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	15,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Prod'n Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	240,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	10,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3	3	2.95	2.95	95,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.94	Macroasia Corp	4.7	4.75	4.6	4.65	394,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12.25	12.25	12	12	35,100
30	10	Paxys Inc	13.25	13.25	12.25	12.25	1,133,400
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	446,100,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	6.1	6.1	5.9	6	323,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	6.3	6.3	6	6	60,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15	15.25	14.75	15.25	1,741,800
5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3,000
3.1	0.44	GEOGRACE Resources Phil. Inc.	1.96	2.08	1.96	2.06	77,872,000
0.37	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.35	0.37	0.34	0.36	84,880,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	29,110,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	298,100,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	14,000,000
30	1.2	NIHAO Minerals Res. Int'l Inc.	15	16.75	14.25	16.5	8,456,200
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	222,500,000
7.7	3.45	Philex Mining Corp.	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.7	14,396,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	33.5	35	33.5	35	96,700
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1.02	265,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.22	1.26	1.2	1.26	1,794,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	11,680,000
0.026	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.025	0.026	0.024	0.025	329,400,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	77,300,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	48,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	717,000,000

AVERAGES				VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	888.14	UP	1.10	14,429,450	405,455,915.00
Industrial	4,484.31	DOWN	17.17	196,214,100	837,655,830.00
Holding Firms	1,912.36	DOWN	4.76	587,924,180	678,084,230.00
Property	1,523.57	UP	6.34	284,732,200	632,887,900.00
Service	1,683.03	UP	7.34	138,902,710	641,269,830.00
Mining & Oil	7,274.61	UP	45.42	2,335,125,700	526,484,935.00
All Shares Index	2,153.89	UP	5.15		
PSEi	3,440.67	UP	6.22		
		GRAND TOTALS		3,557,328,340	3,721,838,640.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Loans to coconut farmers near ₱3B, UCPB says

By Amy R. Remo

TOTAL LOANS TO COCONUT farmers neared the P3-billion mark last month, according to a unit of the United Coconut Planters Bank.

The bank's countryside financing arm, the UCPB-CIIF Finance and Development Corp., said it released P287.3 million in new loans to 15,646 small coconut farmers during the first eight months of the year.

This brings to P2.9 billion the total loans that UCPB-CIIF Finance had given since it launched its first credit program in 1995.

These loans have benefited 270,890 coconut-farming households and were used to bankroll livelihood activities such as livestock raising, vegetable intercropping, village-based processing of coconut products and other micro enterprises.

UCPB said coconut farmers form the biggest agricultural group in the country.

About 3.1 million hectares of the country's 12 million hectares of farmland is currently planted to coconut.

The Philippine Coconut Authority estimates that as many as 25 million Filipinos depend on the coconut industry for their livelihood.

UCPB-CIIF Finance president Edgardo Amistad said the company has seven different credit facilities to address the various financing needs of coconut communities.

To further expand the reach of its credit programs, UCPB-CIIF Finance has accredited 30 more conduits for its loans during the first seven months of the year, Amistad said.

This brings to 1,412 the bank's total number of loan conduits, which include cooperatives, coconut farmers, farm workers organizations, nongovernment organizations and rural financial institutions.

Amistad said these loans conduits are spread across the country, giving UCPB-CIIF Finance a wider coverage.

Thirty-nine percent of the conduits are in Luzon; 34 percent in Mindanao, and 27 percent in the Visayas.

Amistad added that the UCPB-CIIF Finance has been providing training to farmers to strengthen their capabilities and thus enhance the viability of the livelihood projects being financed.

Training programs cover topics such as accounting and bookkeeping, credit and financial management, and strategic and action planning.

To date, the company has conducted 1,276 training sessions for 24,463 officers and members of cooperatives.

Toyota to sell hybrids

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Environment-friendly vehicles will soon invade the roads in the country.

Yukio Nishikawa, managing officer of Toyota Motor Corp. based in Japan, said two Prius electric-gas hybrid cars were recently brought to the Philippines for testing in local road and traffic conditions prior to their marketing in the country.

He said Toyota has been mass producing Prius electric-gas hybrid cars and developing fuel cell vehicles for the past years but these are not yet commercially available in the Philippines.

Nishikawa was in Cagayan recently to launch the company's 170-million yen reforestation project in Peñablanca town.

Aside from being fuel efficient, hybrid cars are built with advanced technology, he said.

Company records showed Prius sold 54,000 units in 2004 and 108,000 units in 2005 worldwide, mostly in Japan. *Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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First Philippine Holdings Corporation

NOTICE OF SPECIAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS:

Please take notice that the Special Stockholders Meeting of First Philippine Holdings Corporation will be held on **Wednesday, October 10, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.** at the **Meralco Mini-Theater**, Lopez Building, Ortigas Ave., Pasig City.

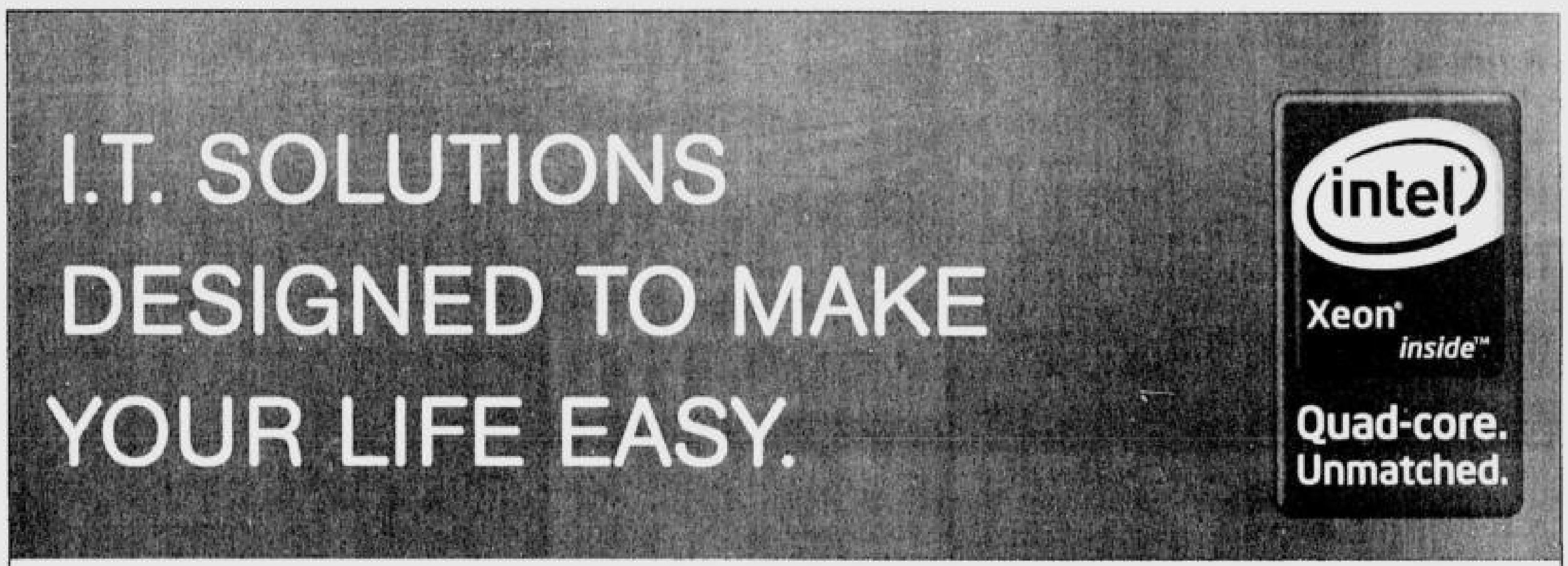
The Agenda of the meeting are as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Required Notice
3. Determination of Quorum
4. Increase the Authorized Capital Stock from ₱12,100,000,000 to ₱32,100,000,000 and Create 200,000,000 Preferred Shares with Par Value of ₱100 each
5. Amend Article Seventh of the Articles of Incorporation to reflect the increase in authorized capital stock and creation of preferred shares
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

For the purpose of the meeting, only stockholders of record as of September 5, 2007 are entitled to attend and to vote in the said meeting.

The deadline for submission of proxy is October 5, 2007. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please present some form of identification, such as passport, driver's license or company I.D. Registration will start at 2:00 p.m.

(SGD.) **ENRIQUE I. QUIASON**
Corporate Secretary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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Regional Office No. V
Legazpi City

IN RE: Petition for Approval of Sale and Transfer and Change of Name of the ship's name MV "GRAND STAR RORO-2" to MV "REGINA CALIXTA IV"

Case No. LMRO 07-026

PHIL-NIPPON KYOEI CORPORATION
Petitioner-Vendor
REGINA SHIPPING LINES, INC.
Petitioner-Vendee.
x---x

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is a petition for approval of sale and transfer and change of name of the ship's name **MV "GRAND STAR RORO-2" to MV "REGINA CALIXTA IV"** filed on 24 September 2007 by the herein Petitioner-Vendor, a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Philippines, with principal office address at Suite 704/705 Royal Plaza Twin Towers, 648 Remedios St., Malate, Manila.

Petitioner-Vendor sold the subject vessel to **REGINA SHIPPING LINES, INC.**, Petitioner-Vendee, a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Philippines, with principal office address at San Roque, San Andres, Catanduanes, evidence of the aforesaid conveyance is a copy of Deed of Absolute Sale dated **12 September 2007**.

This Petition will be heard by this Authority on **05 October 2007, Friday at 10:00 AM**, at the Hearing Room, Maritime Industry Authority, Regional Office No. V, 2/F RCBC Bldg., Rizal St., Legazpi City, at which the herein applicant shall be allowed to present her documentary evidences, after proof of compliance with the jurisdictional requirements has been complied with.

Parties opposed to this subject Petition must file their opposition in writing before this Office, within five (5) days from receipt hereof, and the same shall likewise be supported by documentary evidences, furnishing a copy thereof to the applicant.

Before the start of the hearing proper, the parties will be called to a pre-hearing conference by the Hearing Officer on the date of the initial hearing and thereafter, for the purpose stated in R.A. 9295 the Rules of Practice Instituting Summary Procedures, MARINA Memorandum Circular No. 74 dated 14 January 1993. Parties who failed to appear at a Pre-Trial Conference, when directed to do so, may be declared non-suited by dismissing the Petition or as in default, in case of presence of their counsels unless the latter have special attorney to stipulate in the Pre-Trial Conference.

The Petitioner shall cause the publication of this Notice of Hearing at least **TEN (10) DAYS** prior to the date of hearing (and in case of the vessel operating in the region, publication in a newspaper of a regional circulation is deemed sufficient) and serve a copy of this Notice of Hearing and this application to all parties which appeared to be affected by this application (see attached list). Proof of compliance of publication of Notice of Hearing and service of compliance of publication of Notice of Hearing and service pleadings at affected parties is pre-requisite to pre-trial conference.

WITNESS the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR. this 24th day of September 2007, Legazpi City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) **LUCITA T. MADARANG**
Regional Director

LTM/elm
Petitioner/Vendor: Phil-Nippon Kyoei Corp., Suite 704/705 Royal Plaza Twin Towers 648 Remedios St., Malate, Manila
Petitioner/Vendee, Regina Shpg. Lines, Inc., San Roque, San Andres, Catanduanes
The Maritime Legal Affairs Office
The Coast Guard District Bicol, Rawis, Legazpi City
The City Prosecutor, Legazpi City
The Philippine Ports Authority, Legazpi City
File

(PDI--Sept. 26, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region X

DIVISION OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL
Osilao St., Poblacion I, Oroquieta City
E-mail add: misamisoccidental@deped.gov.ph
Fax No.: (088) 531-1145 • Tel. No.: (088) 531-1872 / 531-0007

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Division of Misamis Occidental, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Construction of a Three-Storey DepEd-Oroquieta City Division Office Building (Phase 1)
Location : MONHS, Campus Osilao St., Pob. 1, Oroquieta City
ABC : Php3,000,000.00
Funding Source : GOP, Continuing Appropriation RA9358 (2006 Supplemental Budget)
Contract Duration : 120 days from the date of acceptance of Notice to Proceed

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the completion of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

The schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule	Venue
1 Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility and Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 1-7, 2007	DepED, Division Office, c/o Planning Unit
2. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	October 3-8, 2007	-do-
3. Eligibility Check (EC)	October 9, 2007	-do-
4. Notice of Eligibility	October 10, 2007	-do-
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 11-17, 2007	-do-
6. Pre-Bid Conference	October 18, 2007	-do-
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 31, 2007	-do-

A complete set of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders from the BAC Secretariat office c/o Planning Office upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Four Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php4,500.00) to the DepED Misamis Occidental Division Cashier. The complete sealed envelopes will be brought during the opening of bids or be dropped in the bidding box placed in the Division Office ground floor lobby on or before October 31, 2007 at exactly 9:00 in the morning. LATE bids will not be accepted.

The DepED Misamis Occidental Division, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, or all bids and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as determined by the BAC is the most advantageous to the government.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) REBONFAMIL R. BAGUIO
OIC, Asst. Schools Division Superintendent
BAC Chairperson

(PDI–September 26, 2007)

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Please apply in person at:

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(PDI--Sept 26, 2007)

R A 9048 Form No 41 (LCRO)
(Devised 10 August 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Local City Registry Office
MANILA

Republic of the Philippines
City of Manila S.S. Petition No. CFN 2007

PETITION FOR CHANGE OF FIRST NAME

MARILOU OBIAL ADEA of legal age, Filipino, and a resident of 44 Istanbul Street, BF Homes Parañaque City, Metro Manila, after having been duly sworn to in accordance with law hereby declare that:

1) I am the Petitioner seeking clerical error in my Certificate of Live Birth;
2) I was born on February 11, 1951 at the Children and Maternity Hospital in Manila;
3) The birth was recorded under registry number 1718 (651);
4) The first name to be changed is from TERESITA to MARILOU;
5) The grounds for filing this petition are the following: I have habitually and continuously used MARILOU and I am publicly known in the community with that first name.
6) I submit the following documents to support this petition: Certificate of Live Birth (Register No. 1718 (651) of Teresita O. Adea born February 11, 1951; Certification dated September 08, 2007 from the National Statistics Office (NSO) certifying as to lack of any record of birth of one Marilou O. Adea allegedly born February 11, 1951, Marriage Contract of Marilou O. Adea and Jack Wendel Proctor on February 16, 1984 issued by the National Statistics Office, Certificate of Live Birth Register No. 84-9554 of John Ernest Adea Proctor born November 10, 1984, College Diploma of Marilou O. Adea who graduated from University of the Philippines with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration on May 14, 1971, Transcript of Scholastic Records of Marilou O. Adea from the University of the Philippines issued on November 16, 1982, Certification of Marilou O. Adea issued by the Starmall Group of Companies on September 14, 2007 as the position of Ms. Adea as the Court Appointed Rehabilitation Receiver of Manuela Corporation, National Bureau of Investigation Clearance of Ms. Marilou O. Adea dated September 05, 2007, Philippine National Police Clearance of Ms. Marilou O. Adea dated September 05, 2007, Philippine Passport No. MU 446751 of Ms. Marilou O. Adea issued at Manila on January 27, 2004, Non-Professional Driver's License No. N03-74-000583 of Ms. Marilou O. Adea issued by the Land and Transportation Office, Makati District Office on February 03, 2006, and Individual Community Tax Certificate No. 13360860 of Ms. Marilou Adea issued at Parañaque City on January 18, 2007.
7) I have not filed any similar petition and that, to the best of my knowledge, no other similar petition is pending with any LCRO, Court or Philippine Consulate.
8) I am filing this petition at the LCRO of Manila in accordance with R.A. No. 9048 and its implementing rules and regulations.

(Sgd.) MARILOU OBIAL ADEA - Petitioner

(PDI - Sept. 26, 2007)

Power Sector
Assets & Liabilities
Management Corporation

Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

for the

Procurement of Motor Vehicles for PSALM Corporation

1. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the total sum of FIVE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php5,200,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Motor Vehicles for PSALM Corporation. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Motor Vehicles for PSALM Corporation. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to R.A. 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure. Bids must cover all the items indicated in the Bidding Documents.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (PhP2,500.00). The method of payment will be either cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 03 October 2007 at 2:00 PM at the 6th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 15 October 2007, 2:00 PM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, cashier's check, irrevocable letter of credit (1% of the ABC), Bank guarantee (1 ½% of ABC) or Surety Bond (2 ½% of the ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 15 October 2007 at 2:30 PM at the 6th floor, Bankmer Building, 6756, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation
HELENA C. TOLENTINO
7th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel: (02)8405046 ; Fax: (02)8930699
e-mail: *hctolentino@psalm.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **HELENA C. TOLENTINO**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Sept. 26, 2007)

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Maca-as, Tubigon, Bohol
Fax No. (038) 508-8095, Tel. No. (038) 508-0084, 508-0085, 508-9751, 508-9731

INVITATION FOR BIDS NO. 2007-03

The **BOHOL I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BOHECO-I)** thru 5% reinvestment and general fund intends to procure various electrical materials and equipment to be used in our coverage area.

Lot A – Line Hardware
Lot B – Wires and Conductors
Lot C – Insulators
Lot D – Lightning Arrester and Fuse Cutout
Lot E – Armor Rods
Lot F – Clamp, Hotline, #6-4/0, AB Chance
Lot G – Circuit Breaker with Weatherproof Enclosure
Lot H – Fuse Link, Removable Head, Kearney or AB Chance
Lot I – Lineman Tools and Equipment

Sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the above-mentioned materials will be received by **BOHECO-I** at its main office in Maca-as, Tubigon, Bohol on or-before October 11, 2007 at 2:30 P.M. at which time and place said proposal would be opened and read in the presence of bidders or their representatives.

The interested bidders may obtain information, secure list of bidding documents from **BOHECO-I** Main Office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00).

(Sgd.) **CARLOS B. ITABLE**
General Manager

(PDI--Sept. 26, 2007)

OBITUARIES

SALVADOR "Bading" DE JESUS MONROY

Oct. 25, 1936 – Sept. 25, 2007

Son of former Navotas mayor
Dr. **Felix Monroy** † and
Flora de Jesus †

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 25, 2007 at the age of 70.

His bereaved wife **Juliana Alonzo**, children **Pepito** and **Julie**, **Luz**, **Medy** and **Chito**, **Tess** and **Ed**, **Nelda** and **Joey**, **Jun** and **Tere**, **Rey** and **Perly**, **Ferdie**†, **Michael** and **Cristy**, **Philip** and **Kris**, and **Ceasar** and **Rovi**, brothers and sisters **Manoling** and **Baby**, **Meny** and **Linda**, and **Charing** and **Doy**, grandchildren, nephews and nieces, **Aunt Elisa**, cousins and other relatives request pious readers to pray for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at his residence in H. Monroy St., Navotas City, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Saturday, 29th day of September 2007 at Navotas Cemetery, after the 3:00 P.M. Holy Mass at San Jose Parish Church, Navotas City, Metro Manila.

EMMY ALAVA ARVISU

Peacefully joined our LORD on September 24, 2007 at the age of 84.

Her loving children **Celine, Catherine, Cecile, Ted, Mike, Carrie, Christine** (†) and **Carol**; children-in-law **Rod, Jun, Jazz, Lilian, Normie, Bobby** and **Winston**; grandchildren **Ina & Johan, Zaza & JV, Ria, Rachel, Noel, Gino, Francis, Justine, Jose Mari, Javy, Thea, Aica, Gio, Carlos, Rico, Bianca, Tann, Andre** and **Chia**; great grandchildren **Gelo** and **Dylan** and other relatives mourn her passing and pray for her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at #119 Bayabong Street, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 27, 2007 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Jerome and Sta. Susanna Parish, Alabang Town Center.

Instead of flowers, donations for Focolare Movement will be appreciated.

MILAGROS SAN PEDRO MACALINO

Died in the grace of our Lord on September 23, 2007 at the age of 72.

Her remains lie in state at Dulce Funeral Homes, Jose Abad Santos cor. Dinalupihan St., Tondo, Manila.

Interment will be on September 29, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. at Eternal Garden Memorial Park, Balintawak, Q.C.

For any inquiries, you may contact Corazon or Elizabeth Macalino at cel. No. 09274688832.

DELFIN NABONG VIVAR, SR.

Peacefully joined our Lord; his wife Lita and daughter Jijay on September 24, 2007 at the age of 82.

His children Jun and Kelly Vivar, Cecile Manotok, Cherry and Wally Martinez, Twiggy and Richard Santos, Trina and Jojo Oledan; grandchildren Katya, Mika, Brian, Champ, Erica and Jessica; brothers Avelino (†), Fidel (†), Ibarra (†); sisters Erlinda and Josefina; and other relatives and friends, request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Bonifacio Chapel, La Funeraria Paz (inside Manila Memorial Park), Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be on Friday, September 28, 2007 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park Chapel.

DEATH NOTICE

DR. SOFRONIO B. CALINGO, JR.

Of Pasig City

Peacefully joined our Creator on September 23, 2007 at the age of 75

He is survived by his wife EDITH; and children DANILO and MARICEL, MARIO and ELENA, RENATO and FE, EDGAR, CYNTHIA and DANILO, and JESUS, his grandchildren and great-grandchild.

He lies in state at his residence at 31 M. Del Rosario St., Kapasigan, Pasig City.

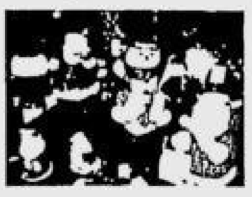
A requiem Mass will be held at 1:00 p.m., September 30, 2007 at Kapasigan Chapel. Blessing will be held at Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral at 2:30 p.m. Interment follows at 3:00 p.m. at Pasig Catholic Cemetery. Please omit flowers, thank you.

HISTORY IN THE BREWING

San Miguel Corp president and chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang formally welcomes Asian Hollywood action superstar Jet Li into the San Miguel family by giving him symbolic tokens of friendship: a limited-edition pewter San Miguel Beer mug, and a copy of the coffeetable book 'History in the Brewing'. Li was in town recently to shoot an upcoming television commercial for San Miguel Beer, which is now being aired throughout Asia. The TVC is seen as a historic coming together of Two Asian icons.

Mega Christmas Expo at SM Megamall

THE MEGA CHRISTMAS EXPO TO BE held Dec 14 to 16 at Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall features an Employees Trade Fair, Students Trade Fair, Balikbayan Business Fair, Home and Hobbies Fair, Food and Beverage Fair, Gifts & Toys Fair, Investment and Property Fair, and Company Promotion Fair. Other highlights include presentation of the Center for Pop Music Philippines, dog shows, OFWs Night Affair to Remember, the 2008 Fashion Parade, and many more. For participation and sponsorship, call Ex-Link Management and Marketing Services Corp at 640-7439, 640-1280, or 0920-9242532, e-mail exlink@yahoo.com, or log on to www.exlinkevents.com.



ORTIGAS & CO TREE-PLANTING AT ANGONO

In commemoration of the Philippine Environment Month, Ortigas & Company, Limited Partnership (OCLP) officials and employees planted a total of 565 mahogany and narra trees recently within the Concrete Aggregates Corp (CAC) plant site in Angono, Rizal. The OCLP activity also helped CAC comply with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources requirements. Dubbed 'Green Heals: We Plant for the Future," the project drew 52 employee volunteers and their families. The volunteer team is headed by OCLP chief operating officer Rex Drilon II and CAC GM Emmanuel Rapadas.

Beach football finds home in Playa Calatagan

FILIPINOS ARE KNOWN FOR BEING PASsionate about sports. The popularity of another sport, soccer, is growing. Pinoys prefer to call it the way the finest European players in the world would-football.

Football is a passion fueled by the celebrity status of such acclaimed international players as Zidane, Rooney, Ronaldo, and Beckham. Local inter-collegiate football leagues continue to flourish.

Fully aware of the growing penchant for football and Filipinos' potential to excel in the sport, Landco Pacific Corp-developer of leisure-tourism estate Playa Calatagan-recently hosted the 1st Rudy Project Beach Football Invitational Tournament, in cooperation with partners and sponsors. The competition-held on the beaches of Playa Calatagan in Batangas-was presented by main sponsor Rudy Project Philippines, as part of the company's events for Extreme Summer 2007. The competition was co-presented by Smart Communications Inc and sponsored by Nestea, Axe, Ford, Rush Fitness Water, Nike, Royal Elastics, and GNC.

According to Playa Calatagan project director Martin Caudal, "The pristine white sand beaches of Playa Calatagan are perfect for a beach football tournament. That's why we at Landco were delighted to work with Rudy Project, Smart Communications, and other partners for the first ever Rudy Project Beach Football Invitational Tournament."

Players and football enthusiasts who participated in the 1st Rudy Project Beach Football Invitational Tournament-numbering over a thousand-showed that Playa Calatagan is indeed home to beach football players and fans, who all enjoyed the radiant Playa Calatagan atmosphere.

"Football enthusiasts can definitely look forward to more beach football events and other similarly themed activities in Playa Calatagan in the future. And we'll be here to support them," Caudal said.

A mere two-and-a-half-hour drive from Manila, the 92-hectare Playa Calatagan is highly touted as the Philippines first tourism estate designed around a beach community. Playa Calatagan was architecturally designed and landscaped in such a way that residents and visitors can equally appreciate the location's amenities. These amenities include the beach and other natural features of the site, the residential units that have a rustic ambience, and the commercial attractions.

Parties interested in Playa Calatagan may call Landco Pacific Corp's sales office at 850-0594 or 0920-9549688, e-mail playacalatagan@landcopacific.com, or log on to www.playacalatagan.com.

Siena College QC Rosary Crusade turns 40

THE ROSARY CRUSADE OF SIENA COLLEGE of Quezon City will have another milestone as it turns 40 this year with the theme: "Mary, Mother of God, Queen of the Family". The novena-masses in honor of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary will be held at 7:30 a.m. from Sept 27 to 29 and Oct.1 to 4 and at 7 a.m. on Sep. 30 at the College Chapel at the 3rd floor of the main building. On the 9th day, Oct. 5, the Eucharistic celebration will be presided over by Most Reverend Honesto Ongtioco DD, Bishop of the Diocese of Cubao, after the novena prayers which will start at 1:15 p.m. at the Siena Hall. The grand procession will immediately follow the mass. There will also be an exhibit of photos of the Siena Rosary Crusade celebrations through the years at the main lobby during the novena days and the rest of October. Everyone is invited to join the crusade and, together as one family, pray for Mama Mary's intercession so that there will be love in our families, peace and prosperity for our country and for the whole world. This year, the Siena Rosary Crusade is headed by Sr. Meriza Ocampo OP, SCQC Institutional Campus Ministry coordinator with Ms Gigie Gorospe as consultant.

Manila hosts Spa Asia Summit

MANILA WILL HOST THE SPA ASIA Summit from Oct. 3 to 5, according to the Department of Tourism (DOT).

The summit will mark October as Health and Wellness Tourism Month and strengthen DOT's campaign in positioning the Philippines as a preferred health and wellness destination.

Slated at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza, the summit will bring to Manila a multitude of health and wellness experts, practitioners, and officers of companies in related fields, including journalists from leading publications in the United States, United Kingdom, Greece, The Netherlands, Taiwan, Thailand and Korea.

The foreign journalists will also have a post-summit tour to Boracay and Palawan, whose world-class health and wellness facilities can be featured in their publications.

The summit features world-renowned speakers such as medical director Dr. Geraldine Milton of the Sante Wellness Group, owner and educator Dr. Melissa Grill Petersen of Flow Unlimited, motivational speaker Dr. Noah McKay, holistic wellness practitioner, author and herbalist Grace Gawler, co-founder and medical director Dr. David Wong of Health Integration Center USA, hospitality consultant Mary Darling, health and leisure director Daniella Russel, Chiva-Som international projects director Samantha Foster, and professors Gerard Bodeke and Mary Tabbachi, among others. More information can be obtained from www.wellnesssummit.com.

The summit aims to bring the industry together in raising the level of consciousness about its unique challenges and in effectively managing its unprecedented growth.

DOT Secretary Joseph Ace H. Durano said the dramatic growth of the industry in the past few years inspired the government to invest significantly in its further development.

"And it's for this reason as well that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has declared October as Health and Wellness Month. So what better way to celebrate this month than by holding the Spa Asia Summit here in the Philippines," Durano stressed.

"This is reflected in this year's summit theme-'Harnessing Collective Consciousness: Nurturing Growth, Inspiring Change'-which concerns all industry professionals, business owners, and suppliers," said DOT project manager Susan del Mundo.

Quoting Wellness Summit chair Michael Loh, Del Mundo said the event "offers a vehicle for all leading experts, healers and those now entering into the realm of integrated wellness to become the driving force of this multibillion-dollar industry."

Now on its third year, the summit has shaped into an internationally acclaimed event since its staging in 2005 and 2006 in Thailand, both posting exceptional participation and highly successful conclusions.

In the Philippines alone are thousands of hotels, resorts, spa and various other establishments offering wellness-related services, including the traditional hilot that is now getting popular overseas as the Filipino brand of natural healing.

These services, which are mostly being offered in very relaxing ambiance by many new establishments with modern and artistically designed facilities mushrooming across the archipelago, have become major tourist attractions themselves, prompting the DOT to integrate it into the Philippines' brand image in selected foreign markets.

"Whereas, to instill greater awareness and heightened consciousness and understanding of the importance of Health and Wellness Tourism as a globally competitive industry, there is a need to declare the month of October 2007 and every year thereafter as National Health and Wellness Tourism Month," Macapagal-Arroyo's Proclamation 1280 states.

"I am very delighted to invite and welcome all of you to attend this summit, not only because of the learning and the insights that you will gain from internationally acknowledged resource speakers, but also for everyone, especially the delegates, to try for yourselves what spa and wellness here in the Philippines is all about," Durano says on the web.

"We look forward to welcoming all of you in the Spa Asia Summit this coming October, and we assure you that it is going to be a fruitful and enjoyable summit for everyone," Durano adds.

ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS IN PUBLIC PRACTICE

7th Annual National Convention

'Keeping the High Grade in a Very Challenging Practice Environment'

ACPAPP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Back row, from left: Evely L. Chun Peng, Dan C. Bañas, Benjamin C. Hortelano, Reginald C. Nery, Judith V. Lopez, Reynaldo S. Altre, Jessie C. Carpio, Alexander D. Pascual, Emerson P. Redor. Front row, from left: Melissa S. Delgado, Adelaida N. Gatdula, Emily L. Cailles-Lo, Arminda T. Acyatan-Guerrero, Grace L. Morfe.

ACPAPP will be holding its 7th Annual Convention on September 27 to 29 at Bohol Tropics Resort in Tagbilaran City, Bohol. Tagbilaran City, as the gateway and service center of tourism in Central Visayas, has maintained high tourist arrivals due to the improved peace and order - a right choice for the convention.

The ACPAPP Board of Directors chose Bohol as the convention venue for its famous Chocolate Hills, the Tarsier - the world's smallest primate, white sandy beaches, dive spots, heritage sites and old stone churches. The province is noted for being one of the five Eco-Tourism destinations identified by the Department of Tourism and most recently declared as the top tourist destination in the country.

Dr. Jaime C. Laya, chair of Philippine Trust Company, ACPAPP president for 2003 and ACPAPP Lifetime Achievement Awardee for 2007 will address the convention on the theme "Keeping the high grade in a very challenging practice environment". The theme highlights our drive to excel in high performance work, deliver on our promises for consistent quality, and move us to a higher plane of expectations and achievements. The increasing demand for stricter governance, transparency and regulatory compliance require constant investment and

HIGH/B10

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ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS IN PUBLIC PRACTICE

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Keeping the High Grade in a Very Challenging Practice Environment

ACPAPP 2007 STANDING COMMITTEES
From left: Melissa S. Delgado, Reginald C. Nery, Jose C. Leynes, Ma. Luisa B. Villacorta, Ricardo G. Manabat, Felicidad A. Abad, Alexander D. Pascual, Benjamin C. Hortelano, Melissa L. Ramos, Myra T. Roman. Not in photo: Dennis F. Tatunay, Arsenio F. Mata, Ernesto T. Diaz

'Keeping the high grade in a very challenging practice environment'

From page B9

strengthening of resources, including our people, technology and tools, and audit methodology, to keep us fully equipped in a highly competitive environment.

Where innovation and strategic thinking are essential, our proactive leadership in each of our institutions will bring about transformation that is responsive to business strategy and change. Deep learning and excellent performance will continue as dynamic elements of our work discipline. Our high standards of ethics and integrity will be upheld relentlessly in performing our stewardship role of building public trust.

The 7th Annual National Convention Committee is giving members another meaningful convention. With the theme: "Keeping the high grade in a very challenging practice environment", learning will be enriched with the blend of knowledge and experience of the resource speakers and delegates who will share their insights in the discussions.

Audit risk management

The changing business environment and growing demands of the stakeholders, both global and local, have place the greater emphasis on risk management as it relates to the accounting profession. To a certain extent, this has put a strain on the resources of the auditing firms but this has become necessary for compliance with the auditing standards and requirements of the regulatory agencies, and more importantly, in managing risks which could ultimately threaten one's practice. This will be discussed Ms Sharon G. Dayoan, Risk Management Partner of KPMG Manabat San Agustin & Co.

'Tax updates'

Presented by lawyer Nelson M. Aspe, OIC Deputy Commissioner. The Operations Group of the Bureau of Internal Revenue will enlighten the participants on R.A. 9480 otherwise known as the Tax Amnesty Law. The current tax amnesty program was launched through Republic Act No. 9480, which emanated from a tax bill, which lapsed into law on May 24, 2007. Qualified taxpayers with tax assessments or potential tax liabilities or those who just want to buy peace of mind or avoid hassles of tax investigations can avail of the tax amnesty by paying an amnesty tax.

'ISA Requirement and Fraud Considerations in Our Audit'

Presented by Mr Roderick M. Danao, Partner, Isla Lipana & Co./Pricewaterhouse Coopers. He will share with the participants on ISA requirements, common fraud schemes in the Philippines, fraud drivers and anti-fraud controls, audit procedures to address fraud.

'SEC updates'

Presented by Ms Ma. Gracia F. Casals Diaz, OIC. The Office of the General Accountant of the Securities and Exchange Commission, will include the transitional and implementation issues on International Financial Reporting Standards. It will emphasize the findings of deviations thereof on the basis of the 2006 audited financial statements submitted by corporations, recent guidelines and policies in the submission of financial reports, and accreditation of external auditors and developments.

Light moments with Mr. Francis J. Kong, president - Sun Works Inc. He will enlighten the participants on "Living the great life".

The Practitioners' Forum on "Philippine Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities" will be discussed by Ms Ma. Cecilia F. Ortiz, Partner - Manabat, Delgado, Amper & Co./Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. She will focus on a proposed standard to provide a simplified, self-contained set of accounting principles that are appropriate for small and medium-sized, non-listed companies and are based on full IFRSs. Commentaries and insights will be contributed by ACPAPP members who are practitioners from Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao, in particular, their experiences with small and medium enterprises that are their clients.

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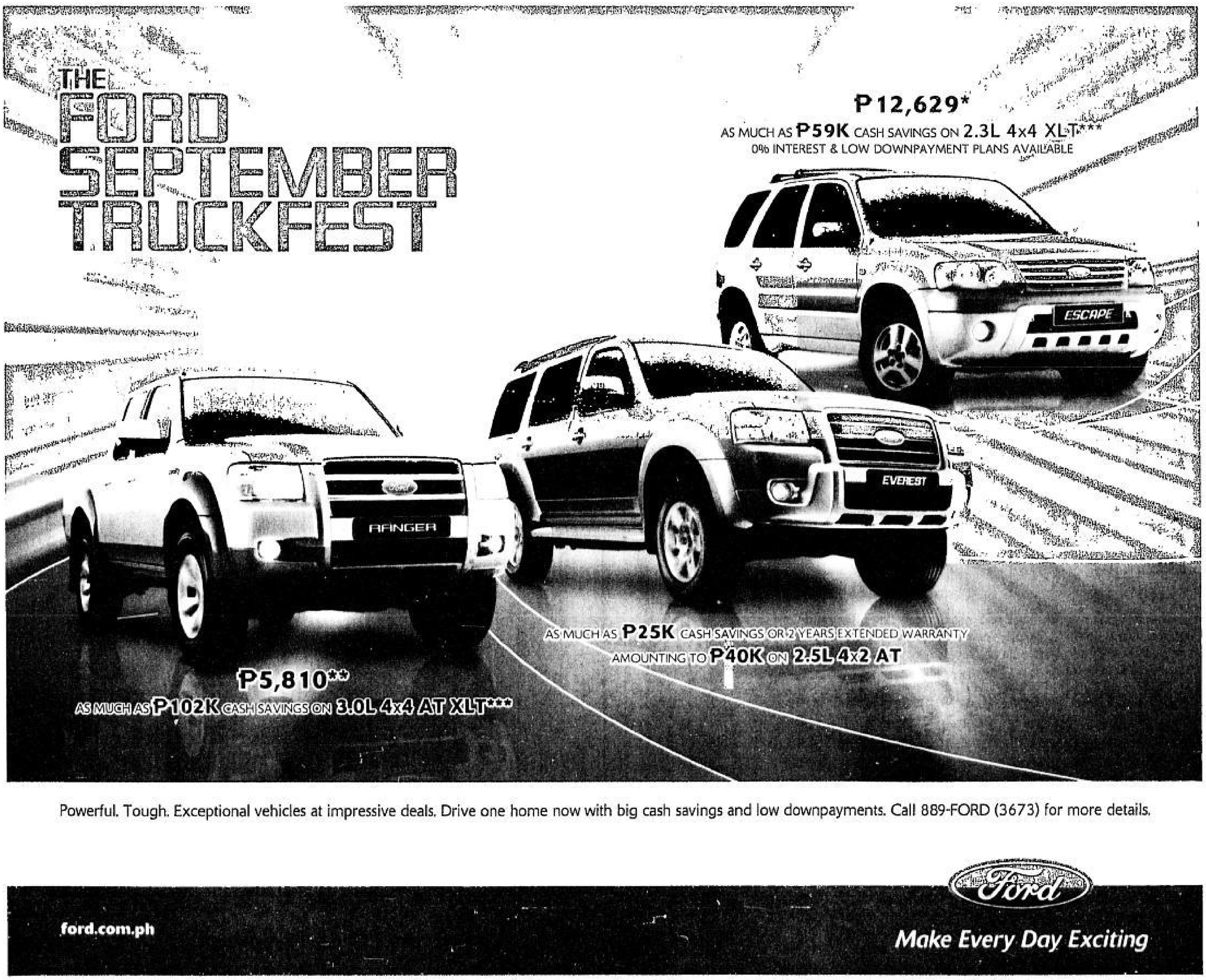
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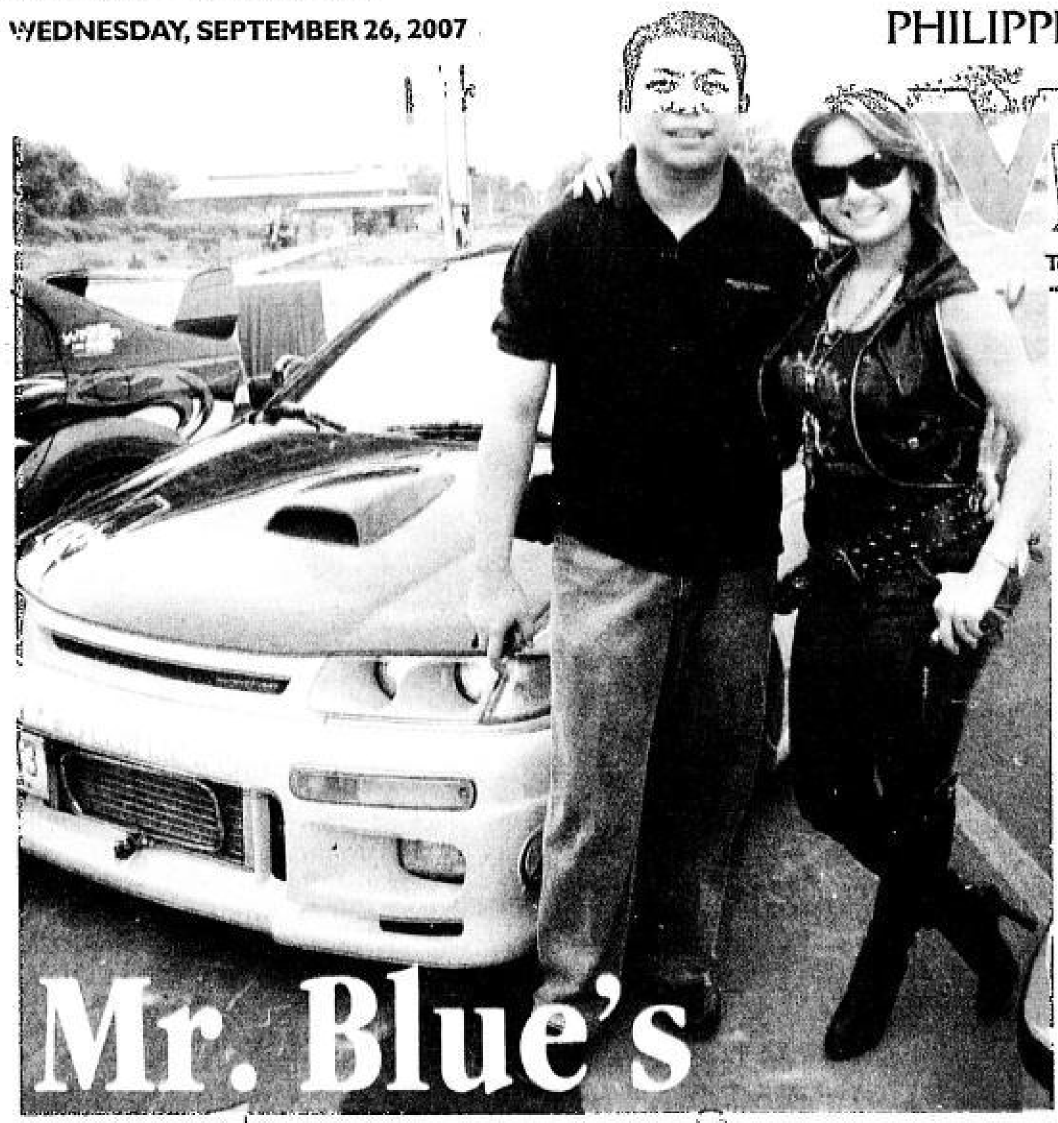

GUESS who she wants to dance with? Andy and Mr. Blue with Regine Tolentino (Mr. Blue was one of the featured cars at GMA7's 'Unang Hirit').

Mr. Blue's obsession

By Tessa R. Salazar

ANDY, *SAKIT NA 'YAN*, (that's already a disorder)." Even Andy's friends and technicians from the Mazda plant would tell him that; they shake their heads describing Andy's madness for everything and anything Mazda.

Andy Adan, 41, may be a "sick motorhead." But he's a happy one. He's one of those "nuts" who believe that a car "is like underwear, you don't lend it to anybody."

Well, that sounds like a reasonable philosophy, if it didn't sound so "eww-y." But what sets Andy apart is that his love for Mazda could go well beyond his Jockeys. Heck, he once said to his wife Menchu that he would want his casket to be of the same color as his famed and beloved Mr. Blue—the 1997 MazdaSpeed Protégé 1.6-liter showcase car. That prompted a scolding from the missus. Andy said it was just a joke, but you just couldn't tell by the way he adores the brand.

His adoration for Mazda, however, has won him a considerable amount of fame. When Andy propped the Familia-type Protégé up in 2003 for a transport show, Mr. Blue was an instant critics' hit (it was rare that a Mazda joined in car shows). It has since earned him 17 awards from different car shows.

All that glory Andy didn't keep for himself. He had said he wanted to show the Filipino motoring public the pride of owning a Mazda. It was the time when Mazda, so to speak, was in the doldrums of public perception. The redesigned and hugely popular Mazda3s and 6s were just about to break out, and it could be said that he and

MR. BLUE'S/ B2-2

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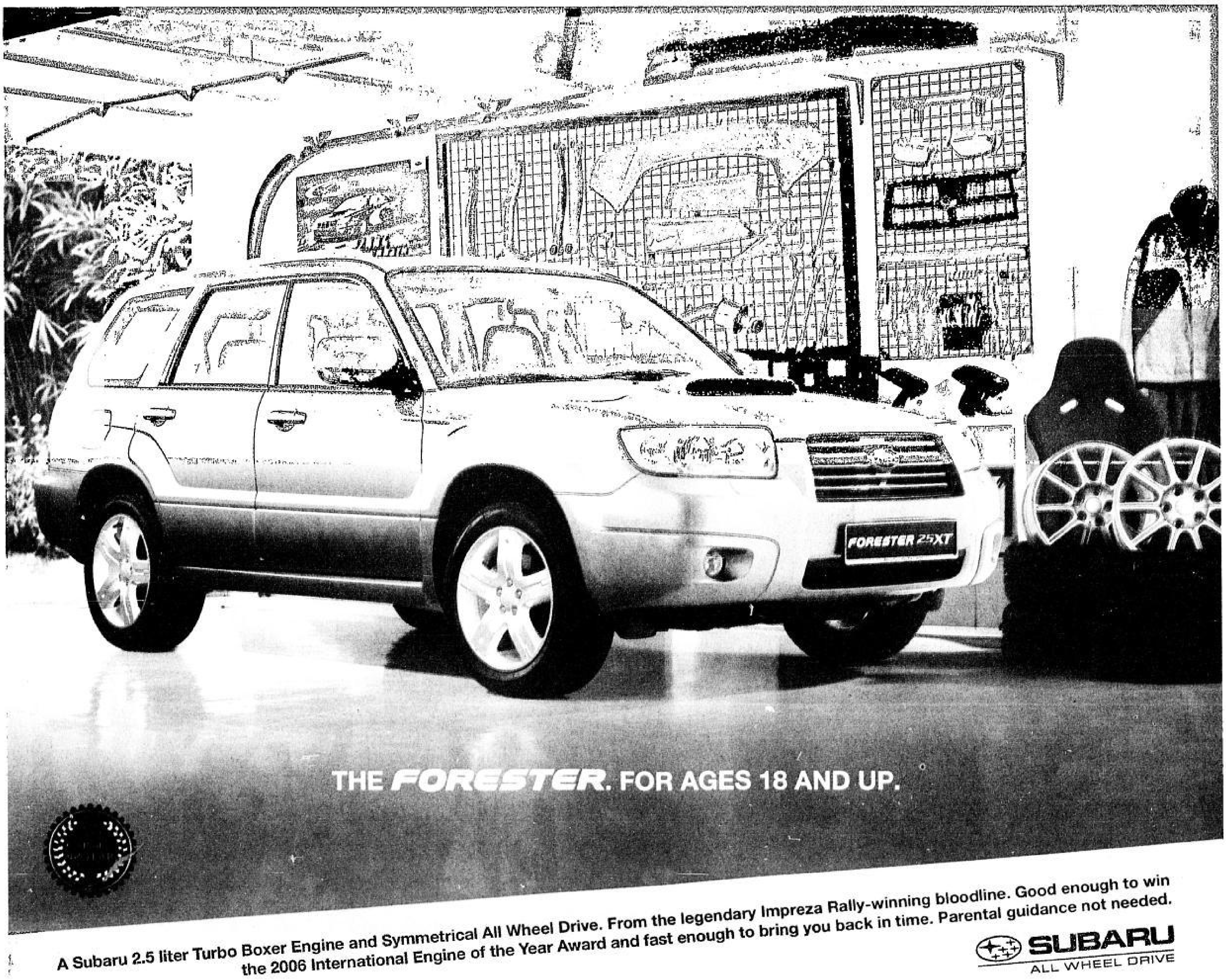

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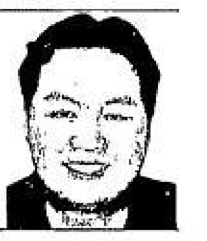


Andre Palma

LEGACY

REGURGITATED BROCHURE INFORMATION made to pose as car reviews are a pet peeve of mine.

Often the focus of these flimsy assessments, largely lifted and reworded, are the numbers that you find at the back of the brochure. Power, max rpm, fuel efficiency, cargo space, number of air bags, how many CDs fit in the changer are some of the numbers used to determine the value and worth of a car, often even before a gear has been engaged or it's actually seen the open.

The Subaru Legacy wagon is one of those cars that falls victim to the ugly "good on paper" mentality that pervades the Filipino motoring psyche.

Snap assessment

Let's look at what a snap assessment of this automobile looks like on paper. The 2.0-liter flat four delivers around 160-bhp and 160 Nm of torque at about 6,500 rpm, ho-hum performance in this day and age. You get the gait and grip of all-wheel drive, but this ton and a half estate is anything but nimble. The interior is elegant and levels of trim are adequate but far from the flash faux-wood and shiny plastic of its main market rivals. It's easy to understand why many look elsewhere once they encounter the Legacy wagon.

This automobile's troubles are further compounded by other cars that bear the Subaru brand. The problem is simple. Sans the turbo and the signature top mount intercooler, cars of this marquee tend to come across as all too similar to those of other manufacturers. For many, without the overwhelming engine numbers the point of a Subaru is quite moot.

Just before we close the book on this supposedly mediocre car, let's take the assessment into the real world, out of the showroom. Over the rain soaked weekend, headed to a small farm half an hour out of Lipa, almost in foothills of Mt. Makiling, you can imagine that the nasty little brochure really didn't mean very much.

Legacy's show of its wares

The Legacy began to win the argument just on the Star Toll way. A drizzle was coming down, enough to elicit small rooster tails of water from cars traveling just under the alleged 100-kph speed limit. The Legacy got to 140-kph lazily, planted itself at that speed and proceeded, unwavering in its contact with the wet uneven tarmac, all the way to the exit. No drama, no fuss. The wagon just plowed on, with much of its composure due to the brand's signature all-wheel drive.

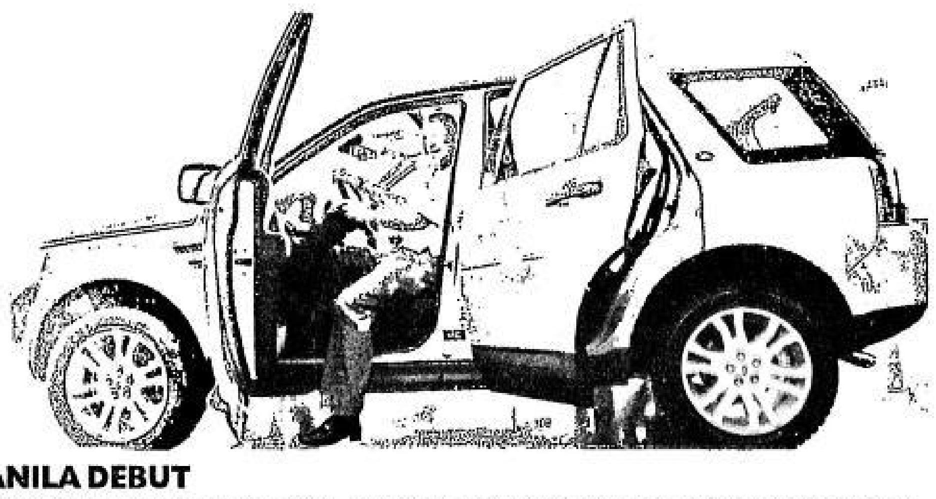
Slight congestion in Lipa itself then gave way to narrow two-lane barangay roads headed for our destination. Taken at speed, the mix of concrete, asphalt and gravel pothole fillers leading up to the destination is a fun-filled exercise in itself but the Legacy tackled the rained-out mixed surface just as it would have a weekend spin around the empty Makati CBD.

The trip and the Legacy's show of its wares did not end when we finally reached our destination. The small farm, breeding thoroughbreds and Rhodesian Ridgebacks, did not have a meter of paved road. Wet grass, rutted muddy corners sometimes half a foot deep and slick, mossy pebble overlays were the surfaces that the Subaru needed to deal with. Let's just say that the Legacy wagon got accidentally sideways just once the entire weekend and I'll chalk that up to pilot error. The rest of the sideways action was intentional.

Needs to be driven

It must be said that all this was done with a full load of a family of four and the usual shipment of clothes, food, booze and toys one takes for out-of-town jaunts. In the light unsealed surface conditions, the confidence and ability of the Legacy to just keep on moving forward was very much appreciated. Pushing, ankle deep in mud is just not my thing.

Utility and real-world ability are things that you will never be able to pass judgment on just by staring at the Subaru Legacy wagon in the showroom. This is a car that needs to be driven to places that are far from the urban context that this vehicle is often taken in. Out of town and off the beaten track, the Legacy wagon will take you there—take that, brochure.



MANILA DEBUT

Land Rover's newest premium 4x4, the all-new Freelander 2, makes its Manila debut. It was presented to the press at the Land Rover showroom in Makati by Wellington Soong, chair and president of LRPhils. Motors Inc., the official distributor of Land Rover vehicles in the Philippines.

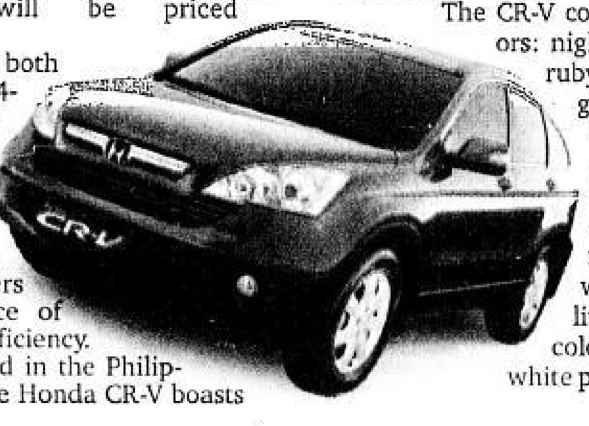
Honda adjusts CR-V prices

HONDA CARS PHILIPPINES INC. BARED plans to adjust prices of its popular SUV, Honda CR-V.

Introduced in March 2007, Honda CR-V has rocketed to the top of the SUV sales chart. To date, some 2,400 CR-Vs have already been delivered to happy customers.

Price increase

From its introductory prices, Honda plans to bring CR-V prices to normal levels. Effective Oct. 15, the automatic transmission CR-Vs will be increased by P10,000 and P15,000 for the manual transmission. Honda CR-V with automatic transmission will be priced P1,270,000 for the 2.0-liter variant and P1,470,000 for the 2.4-liter variant while the 2.0-liter with manual transmission will be priced P1,220,000.



The CRV's are both available with 2.4-liter (DOHC, 170 ps at 5,800 rpm) and 2.0-liter (SOHC, 150 ps at 6,200 rpm) in i-VTEC configuration that delivers a perfect balance of power and fuel efficiency.

First introduced in the Philippines in 1997, the Honda CR-V boasts of comfortable ride, being developed from a passenger car platform. While most SUVs are created from pickup truck, the CR-V traces its roots from Honda's popular sedan, Civic, giving it the most comfortable ride among SUVs and perfect for everyday commute.

SUV characteristics

With Honda's patented real-time 4WD, the CR-V possesses SUV characteristic that more than meets the need for ordinary driving. The real-time 4WD switches into 4x4 mode whenever it senses a slip in front-drive wheels, without the need to operate switches. It automatically engages all-wheel power whenever greater traction is required.

The CR-V comes in exciting colors: nighthawk black pearl, ruby red pearl, sparkle gray and satellite silver. Exclusive colors available for the 2.0-liter model are alabaster silver metallic and taffetta white. For the 2.4-liter model, exclusive colors are brilliant white pearl and silverstone.

Mr. Blue's obsession

From page B2-1

his kind have helped keep the Mazda brand alive.

Nowadays, Andy can be seen driving around in his everyday car, a 2004 Mazda3 (If he's not driving Mr. Blue). You won't mistake Andy from another Mazda driver. He may be the only dude in town wearing either a blue shirt, blue watch with matching blue shoes or Mazda apparel.

Andy's Mazda kingdom

In his house, you will also know that you're in Andy's Mazda kingdom. He has in display over 200 diecast Mazda collections from Hot Wheels, Matchboxes, you name it. He's a member of Diecast Car Club Philippines (www.dcph.info). Is there anyone in the country who can surpass his Mazda-ness? "I don't think there's anybody as sick as me," he said with a laugh.

Andy literally lives, breathes and (perhaps) eats Mazda. Should you ever get into an argument with him over anything even remotely related to Mazda, better make sure you have the whole day to debate. He founded ProtégéTech Philippines Inc. (www.protegetech.org) and now makes a living being a supplier for Mazda Philippines. He also makes money setting up exhibit and trade fair booths, designs and fabrication of signs, kiosks, the works—for Mazda and other clients.

From out of the 'Blue'

Mr. Blue and Andy crossed paths in 1997. A year earlier, the first Familia models rolled out of production, and Andy immediately liked what he saw.

So, imagine the smile on his face when Mazda came out with a souped-up version of the Familia—the MazdaSpeed—in 1997. It was, to borrow a more recent term, "bootylicious," with the wings, the body kit, the lowered profile, the new bumpers, new fascia, 16-inch mags, the works. Everything about it made Andy's mouth water, and his heart race.

It also made his wallet as light as a feather. His painstaking search in local Mazda dealers for the souped-up Familia ended up with him paying P550,000 for the car and a "little" customization. "When I found my car, they didn't have a full-unit MazdaSpeed spec that was in manual transmission, so they had to build one for me."

The dealer tinkered with the 16-valve, 1.6-liter DOHC fuel-injected engine to transform it into an MT. That car, which had a light metallic blue finish, would eventually be named Mr. Blue by Andy and admirers alike.

What made Mr. Blue even more special, Andy said, was that it was his first car that was not a dad's "hand-me-down."

Before his love affair with Mr. Blue, Andy had been driving other car brands (which, it is presumed, would have been dad's "hand-me-downs"). "I had a Mitsubishi Gallant. I used to drive a Nissan. But it was with Mazda that I really stuck it out with because I really enjoyed driving the car, and there was much challenge into setting it up. Since college I really loved to set up cars."

Yes, Andy's your typical male who sticks with his love because of its hard-to-get nature. "When you set a Mazda up, it's more of a challenge. It's more than just picking up parts from Banawe and installing them. For one thing, setting up a Mazda is not easy. Parts and accessories for the car are not easy to come by, unlike for Toyota, Mitsubishi, or Honda."

Andy's Protégé

After setting up the cars, it was time setting up the network—to spread the "disease," so to speak. So, in 2000 Andy put up the Protégé Tech club with Jonas Salonga and Chris Santos. Two years after, Joel Lago (the current chair) joined the group.

Andy met Jonas and Chris via the Internet in 1999. Their mutual admiration for the Protégé brand (in the United States, the Familia is called the Protégé) helped the online club gather more members. Today, the Mazda Protégé Club of the Philippines has over 3,000 global members, with about 100 locally active ones. Members' ages range from 17 to 50.

The Protégé Club has also been conducting its own car shows, with the most recent one happening just this July at The Fort. There. Mazda rides are both showcases and educational tools for members and nonmembers, as Mazda owners are also given the opportunity to share how they have been maintaining their cars and keeping them in tip-top appearance and performance.

Andy said the club will continue to grow, because, he swore, Mazda cars "grow old gracefully." Old Mazda cars on the road still look dignified, he observed.

Well, at least obsessed Mazda fans wouldn't die from this disease. And if ever anyone who's reading this owns a Mazda and develops the classic symptoms—dreams of intergalactic travel in an electric blue MazdaSpeed Familia, cold sweats whenever you're separated from your Mazda car for more than two hours, or bluish spots developing on your skin that resemble the Mazda logo (or Andy's face)—call Andy very quick. He has a blue casket waiting for you. Kidding!

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The i-TEQ D-Max: a world of difference

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WHEN YOU SEE THE 2007 ISUZU D-MAX, it doesn't look very different from the 2002 to 2006 model except for external changes such as a new front grille, new projector type headlights, round fog lights, wider fender flares and multi-reflector combination tail lights. But under the hood, there is a world of difference.

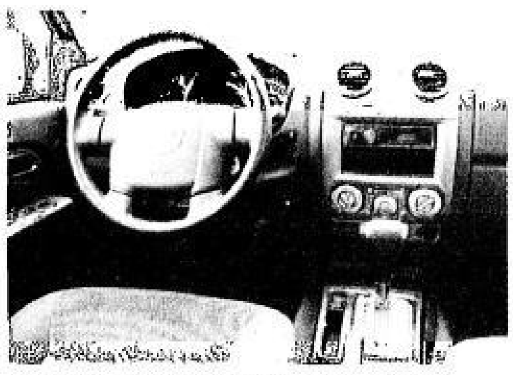
The 3.0-liter 4JHI-TC direct injection turbo intercooler engine of the preceding D-Max has been replaced by the 3.0-liter 4JJI-TC i-TEQ direct injection 3rd generation common rail diesel engine with turbo intercooler, the same powerplant that propels the 2007 Isuzu Alterra SUV. With the i-TEQ engine, the D-Max's horsepower has increased from 130/3,800 rpm to 146/3,800 rpm and its torque peaks to 294 Nm starting at 1,400 rpm (instead of at 2,000 rpm in the previous model) and stays steady up to 3,400 rpm.

This doesn't match the 3.0-liter Ford Ranger XLT's class-leading (so far) 380 Nm/1,800 rpm max torque nor the 2.5-liter Mitsubishi Strada's 314 Nm/2,000 rpm. But Isuzu knows that reliability and fuel efficiency are just as important as power in a workhorse pickup. Fuel efficiency is claimed to have improved by 19 percent over the previous D-Max and the i-TEQ engine is not only quieter than the 4JHI powerplant, it produces less emissions.

Never fails

Whether people buy a pickup for load-lugging purposes, for daily mobility or for weekend outdoor activities, they need one that never fails them. Dependability is Isuzu's ace. The D-Max, by whatever name it is sold in other countries, has earned a global reputation for reliability, strength and refinement. For three years after it was launched in Manila in November 2003, the first D-Max was the best-selling pickup truck in the country. It also topped pickup sales in Thailand after its intro there in 2002.

Undoubtedly, the success of the D-Max can be traced to Isuzu Motors' track record as the most trusted leader in diesel engine technology and as Japan's largest manufacturer of light trucks. The production of diesel engines accounts for about 16 percent of Isuzu Motors' overall sales worldwide and is expected to rise to 1.11-million units this year.

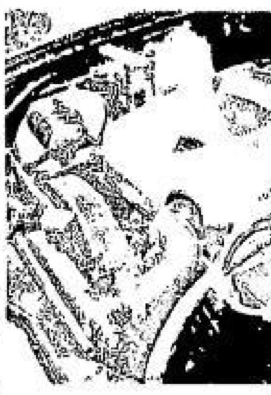


IN THE COCKPIT, Optitron meters and silver accents

The i-TEQ D-Max offered here is the 4x2 variant in LS trim with either automatic (AT) or manual transmission (MT) and in LX trim with MT. It has the same dimensions and gross vehicle weight as the outgoing model except for overall height which has increased from 1,735 mm to 1,760 mm. Its ground clearance is higher at 225 mm than the Ford Ranger XLT's 207 mm and its front overhang may be the shortest in the double cab pickup segment, which translates into improved departure and approach angles should you hit rough terrain. For off-road enthusiasts, IPC promises to bring in the 4x4 i-TEQ D-Max from Thailand before the year ends.

DESC

The top-of-the line 3.0-liter, 4-speed AT D-Max LS is priced at P1.075 million and the 5-speed MT sells for P1.015 million. The LS model with AT has direct electronic shift control (DESC) to reduce shift shock and allow smooth shifting in direct relation to engine speed. The grade logic system prevents "shift-hunting" on uneven terrain and reduces stress on the brake system, especially during down-slope driving while the "3rd start" mode provides non-slip starting on slippery roads, minimizing wheel spin and loss of control. These features contribute to the D-Max's reliability, exceptional road manners and high level of refinement.



THE i-TEQ 3.0 direct injection 3rd generation common rail diesel engine

The LS model's suspension system consists of an independent double wishbone with torsion bar springs and stabilizer bar in front and semi-elliptical leaf springs with telescopic shock absorber at the rear. Ventilated disc brakes in front and drums at the rear provide adequate stopping power.

Comfort

The ride is bouncy when the cargo bed is empty, but riding comfort improved when I had 10 sacks of garden soil loaded. With a 1,075 cubic meter capacity, the cargo bed could have easily accommodated much more. The rigid chassis, armored with big frames and substantial cross members, ensures stability even while carrying heavy loads.

A NEW rear bumper, chrome finish and new tail lights

Inside, Optitron meters with digital ambient temperature display and average consumption meter dominate the dash. The cabin offers enough headroom and legroom for five (including driver) on sliding/reclining bucket seats up front and a foldable rear bench. In the LS models, an in-dash CD tuner/WMA/MP3 with USB direct iPod port and six speakers is standard equipment.

Safety features include dual SRS airbags, ABS with EBD, 3 point ELR seatbelts and a big high-mounted third brake lamp. Summing up, Isuzu Philippines looks all set to retain its pole position in the pickup market with the i-TEQ D-Max.

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Jury: 12 people who determine which client has the better lawyer.

THE BRAWNY 2007 Isuzu D-Max 3.0-liter LS

PHOTOS BY AIDA SEVILLA-MENDOZA

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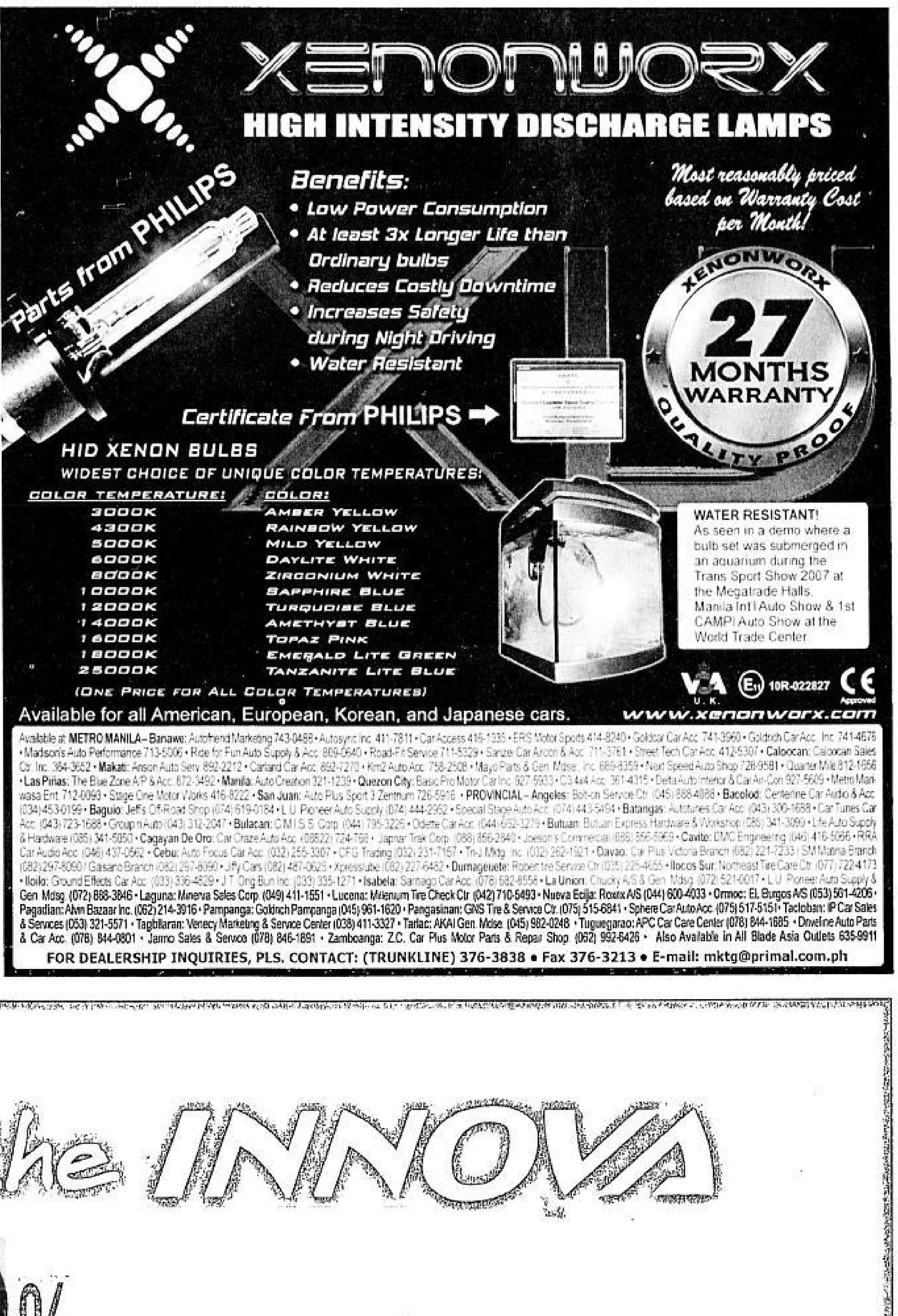

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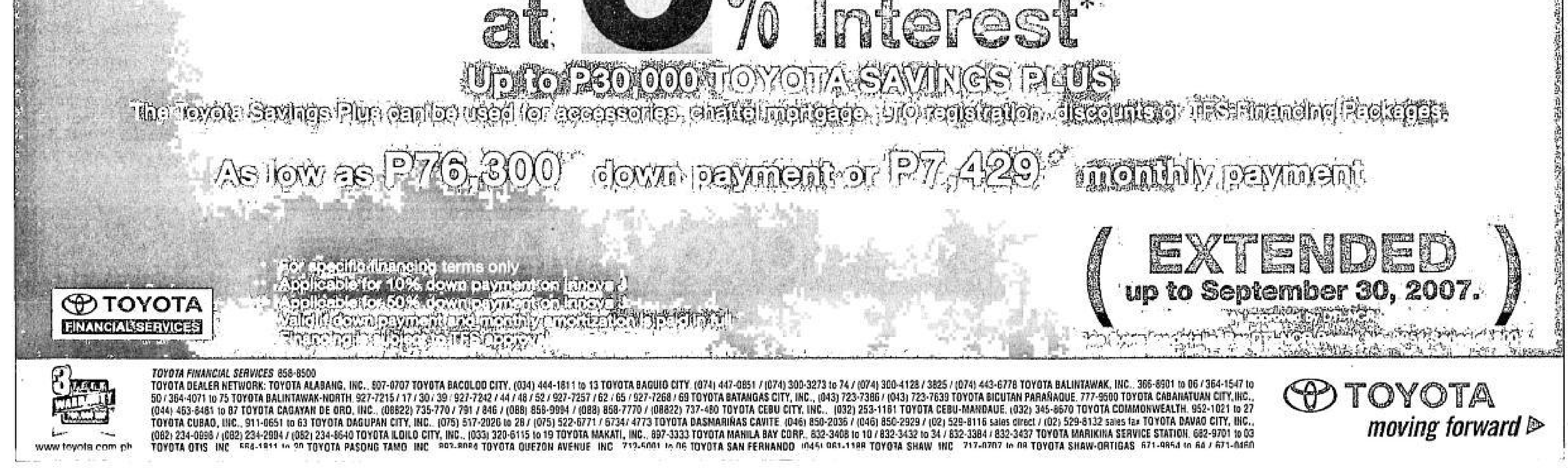

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RP welcomes another Chinese car brand

By Charles E. Buban

DÉJÀ VU. IT WAS A FEW months ago that this writer traveled 400 kilometers from Shanghai to Wuhu to visit the headquarters of Chery Automobile, one of China's largest independent carmakers.

Then just a few days ago, this writer was again in Shanghai traveling the same distance, only this time, to the city of Ningbo where another Chinese independent carmaker is based.

Like Chery, Geely Automobile does not depend on joint ventures with the world's major automakers and instead relies on its own research and development to come up with its own lineup of vehicles.

Geely, which has been selling cars in China since 1997, now currently ranks fifth in the Chinese car market (selling over 200,000 units a year), already considered a feat considering there are over 30 other players.

A challenge

"It was indeed a challenge for an independent carmaker like Geely to succeed in China, much more in going global. Geely Group had invested billions of dollars in new plants, getting technical partnerships as well as acquiring experts. We believe bringing their cars in the Philippines is well worth it," said Albert Wu, director (China) of Pan Fil Inter Trade Co. Inc. (www.geely-global.com), which brought the Geely brand to the Philippines.

Aside from the improvements it incorporates in its car models, pricing has been an important advantage for Geely in China as well as in its other developing markets such as Indonesia, the Middle East, Egypt and Russia.

Pan Fil Inter Trade president and CEO Joycelin Torres Rodriguez believes such pricing will also play a huge factor in the Philippines.

"The cost of acquiring a brand-new vehicle has always been a challenge to a lot of Filipinos, which is the reason they often resort to secondhand cars. Now they have a choice. In this regard, we decided to initially bring in two of Geely's economical models: the manual 1.1-liter MR hatchback (P387,000) and manual 1.3-liter CK sedan (P489,999)," she said.

Rodriguez informed that they would like to push the CK model as a taxi model.

"It will be very cost-efficient for the taxi operator or owner considering that aside from the price and the loan package that we will offer them, we made sure that the service as well as the spare parts are available and at a price they will surely appreciate," she promised.

Boost marketability

To further boost Geely's marketability in the country, Rodriguez informed that her Olongapo-based company has partnered with Pacific Ace Savings Bank, a financial institution that expressed willingness to provide Geely car buyers attractive auto loan package, as well as Standard Insurance Co., which has agreed to provide Geely car buyers insurance requirements and needs.

"We believe in the product and in Geely's mission to make quality cars that the masses could afford. The company recently launched its Geely Auto Loan product, which we initially made available in Hong Kong where it will be offered to our OFW (overseas Filipino workers) clients," said Emmanuel Cabusao, Pacific Ace Holdings marketing and communications director.

Cabusao informed that both their offices in Parañaque City and in Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales are also ready to extend this offer to car buyers here especially those belonging to small- and medium-scale business and even to employees.

Hoping to tap

Another partner that Pan Fil Inter Trade is hoping to tap is Security Bank, one of the country's top 10 private domestic universal banks, which recently introduced a car financing package.

"Pan Fil Inter Trade has a very interesting product in Geely and the bank is keenly looking at the possibility of opening its car loan package to their car buyers," said Ralph Cadiz, Security Bank consumer lending division VP.

Wu added that now that the Geely brand is in the Philippines Filipino car buyers will now reconsider buying a secondhand vehicle.

"Why buy an unreliable vehicle when you can have a brand-new one that is very affordable and yet equipped with several safety features, is fuel-efficient, and much more, has a Euro 3 compliant engine," boasts Wu.

GEELY Group's commitment to quality has earned recognition not only in China but also in other international markets.

PAN Fil Inter Trade's Rodriguez (left) and Wu has successfully convinced Geely International Corp. sales director Frank Xu to bring the Chinese brand to the Philippines.

Rainy day care for your car

THE RAINY SEASON BRINGS A host of concerns for car owners. Visibility, overall safety and maintenance are but some of the things that come to mind. Blade Auto Center, the one-stop shop for car care and accessories, offers the following items for better and safer driving experience during the wet months.

Maximize visibility with the High Intensity Discharge (HID) lamp lighting system. The xenon-filled lamp is three times brighter than halogen and lasts 10 times longer. It is suitable for various automobiles and produces greater light output at lower energy consumption. It comes in single beam or high and low beam models. Blade HID is now available for P9,999 at six months 0 percent interest.

Wiping performance

Bosch Aero Twin Wiper boasts of a three-component Bosch Rubber Technology for a smear- and chatter-free wiping performance. It is made of full synthetic rubber for improved heat resistance and has a 20 percent longer service life compared to conventional wiper blades.

Auto-Gard Rain Repellant is the best choice for your windshield. It disperses rain on contact and allows visibility even without the use of wipers.

Keep your car dry with Blade Car Cover. It comes in three sizes for sedan, minivans and SUV. It has a three-layer composite roof protection system and a "breathable" middle layer that allows water vapor to escape and prevents liquid from penetrating. Ultrasonic welding gives it a no-leak construction while its soft cushioning layer protects the paint of your car. Blade Car Cover resists rot and mildew as well as protects against rain, UV rays and dirt. It comes in gray and white colors with a handy storage bag.

Must have

Crocodile Jack is a must have for every car. It has a 2-ton lift capacity, broad swivel saddle with safety lugs and has a long, low wide stance for stability. This portable tool fits any trunk.

A Trouble Light is another indispensable emergency tool. This quartz halogen light is 12 volts, 55 watts and has an H3 bulb. Its glass lens provides excellent light transmission and connects to your car's cigarette lighter holder.

Tire Flys screw unto the tire valve stem and makes your car more visible at night and during heavy rain. It is motion activated and is powered by long-lasting alkaline batteries. Tire Flys are also perfect for motorcycles and bicycles.

To see the latest car care gadgets, visit Blade at SM Mall of Asia, SM Southmall, SM San Lazaro, SM Sta. Rosa, SM North Edsa, The Block and SM City Lipa. Blade is also located at Greenbelt 1, Park Square 1, Market! Market!, Trinoma Mall, Festival Supermall, Greenhills, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Metroeast and Robinsons Galleria.

TRANSPORT TRIVIA

By Emman Cena

Jeepney the Pinoy 'King of the Road'

CLICHÉ AS IT MAY SOUND, BUT THEY came, they saw—and they conquered when they set foot on Pinoy roads.

Anywhere in the country, we see these flamboyantly painted transport plying major thoroughfares. Called jeepneys, they are chrome-plated and are always crowded with people aboard sitting face to face. Did you know how they started?

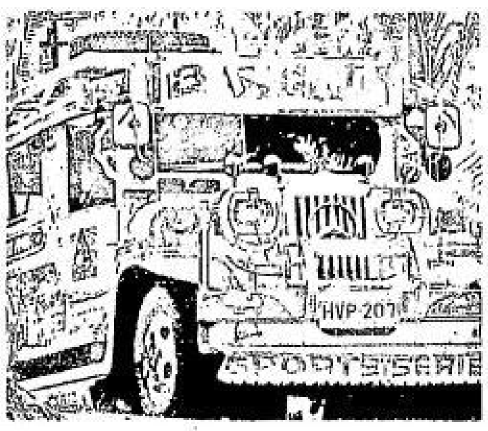
Automobile enthusiasts believe the Pinoy version of jeepney derived its name from the words jeep and knee, to describe the face-to-face seating of passengers in what is considered to be the most popular ride among Filipinos.

Its beginnings in the Pinoy lexicon date back to the postwar period when hundreds of surplus jeeps were sold or given to Filipinos. Since most of Manila's transport system had been destroyed by war, Filipino entrepreneurs used the surplus jeeps as "share taxis." Eventually, drivers followed through making their "jeeps" attractive to potential passengers.

Although most of them were made from refurbished American military jeeps, they were decorated and accentuated with vibrant colors, even hood ornaments. In no time, city dwellers realized that a new sort of transport system had been born in the ravaged metropolis.

Jeepneys are now produced by workshops and factories across the country. In Cebu a bulk of jeepneys are built from secondhand Japanese trucks. Builders are also common in Las Piñas City, Batangas and Cavite.

References: http://www.hartford-hwp.com, http://www.thingsasian.com



2007 Cebu motorshow draws top vehicle, transport firms

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING AUTOMOTIVE firms will spearhead the roster of car industry stakeholders in the much-awaited Motorshow Cebu International scheduled at the Cebu International Convention Center from Oct. 16 to 21.

Official representatives of Toyota, Isuzu, Hyundai and Kia Motors in Cebu have recently signed up for the country's premier transport showcase that will highlight the vibrant and dynamic Cebu auto industry. Companies representing the automakers include Hyper-Power Services, Toyota Cebu Inc., Isuzu Cebu Inc., Hyundai Cebu Inc. and Kia Motors Cebu.

First Motorshow

Attended by thousands of spectators annually, the Motorshow was first opened in Cebu in 1989. Since then, it has steadily evolved into a grand exhibition that brings together top automakers, automotive dealers, parts and accessories retailers and wholesalers, aftermarket service outfits and other transport stakeholders.

Aside from its extensive displays of top-gear automobiles, motorcycles, gizmos, body kits and related products, equipment and services, Motorshow Cebu International will also showcase the Philippines' commitment to providing earth-friendly and cost-efficient hybrid vehicles, engine improvements and fuel alternatives, organizers said.

Special highlight

A special highlight of the Motorshow is the Energy Fuels Conference for Southeast Asian Nations at the CICC that is expected to generate groundbreaking discussions among the region's biggest transport and fuel stakeholders, among them Isuzu, Hyundai and Kia Motors.

Serving both as a forum for interactive collaborations among participants as well as a marketing venue for the constantly developing transport industry, Motorshow Cebu International is expected to further boost automotive entrepreneurship in Cebu and nearby provinces.

Big names

Aside from Toyota, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Hyundai and Kia Motors, other industry big names in the transportation sector have also confirmed attendance in the six-day event at the CICC, including Petron Corp., Carry Boy Phils. and Kawasaki.

Cooperating agencies include the departments of Transportation and Communications and Trade and Industry, Land Transportation Commission, Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Province of Cebu, Mandaue City and CATO.

Registration for Motorshow Cebu International is still ongoing. For details and inquiries, call the Motorshow Cebu secretariat at (632) 2384611, fax at (632) 7262334 or e-mail motorshowcebu@gmail.com.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 3454. Series of 2007

2bU! LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

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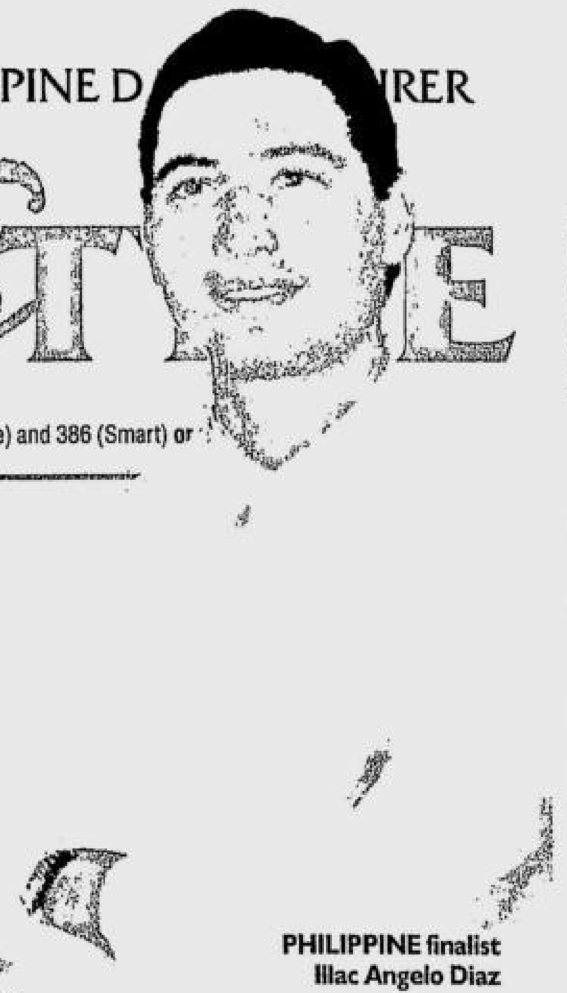
Business with a social vision

The DHL Yes Awards aim to promote social entrepreneurship



PHILIPPINE finalist Illac Angelo Diaz

Text and photos by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent

IN SOME CASES, WINNING REALLY isn't everything.

Although 35-year-old Aysha Saifuddin of Pakistan walked away with the top award at this year's DHL Young Entrepreneurs for Sustainability (YES) Awards, the four other finalists of the award feel that being nominated is already an indication that their work is changing the world in their own not-so-small ways.

"Through their meaningful work, the five finalists have made significant contributions to their societies," said Dan McHugh, acting CEO of DHL Asia Pacific. "They make excellent role models for anyone who wishes to pursue a social cause."

He added, "By initiating the YES Awards, DHL hopes to provide an annual platform for young entrepreneurs to share their innovative ideas to improve their societies. We hope to encourage even more participation from young business leaders next year and help boost awareness about social entrepreneurship."

The award was given to Saifuddin for her work on the Kaarvan Crafts Foundation, which helps women from low-income communities in Pakistan attain financial independence through a crafts business. The foundation also aims to empower women by equipping them with knowledge about business-related matters, such as management training and retail distribution. The Kaarvan Crafts Foundation, which has about 2,500 women in its roster of entrepreneurs, teaches the women how to make household goods such as decorative candles and the like.

The other finalists of the award are Kritaya Sreesunpagit of Thailand, Pinky Sikder of Bangladesh, Areena Ng of Singapore, and Illac Angelo Diaz of the Philippines. Sreesunpagit and Ng were lauded for their work on reforming education in their respective countries, while Sikder was recognized for her work on improving the rights and living conditions of transgender people in her country.

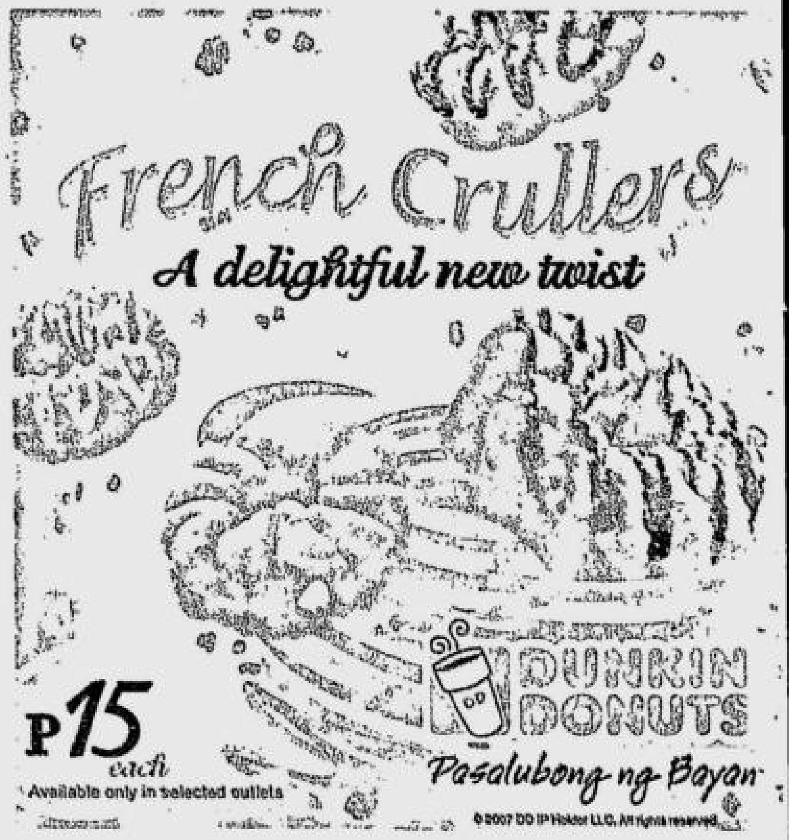
Diaz, on the other hand, won the award in the Philippines for his work with his dormitory for seafarers, among other projects.

International judges

Saifuddin received a cash prize of $10,000 and a trophy at an award ceremony in Singapore, while the other finalists received $5,000 each. The winner was determined by a five-member International Council including Erna Witoelar, UN Special Ambassador for Asia and the Pacific; John Elkington, co-founder of SustainAbility; Jane Wei-Skillern, associate professor of Harvard Business School; Hugh Stephens, senior vice president International Relations and Public Policy (Asia Pacific) of Time Warner Inc; and economist Solita Monsod, former socioeconomic planning secretary of the Philippines.

BUSINESS/ C2

FINALISTS of the DHL YES Awards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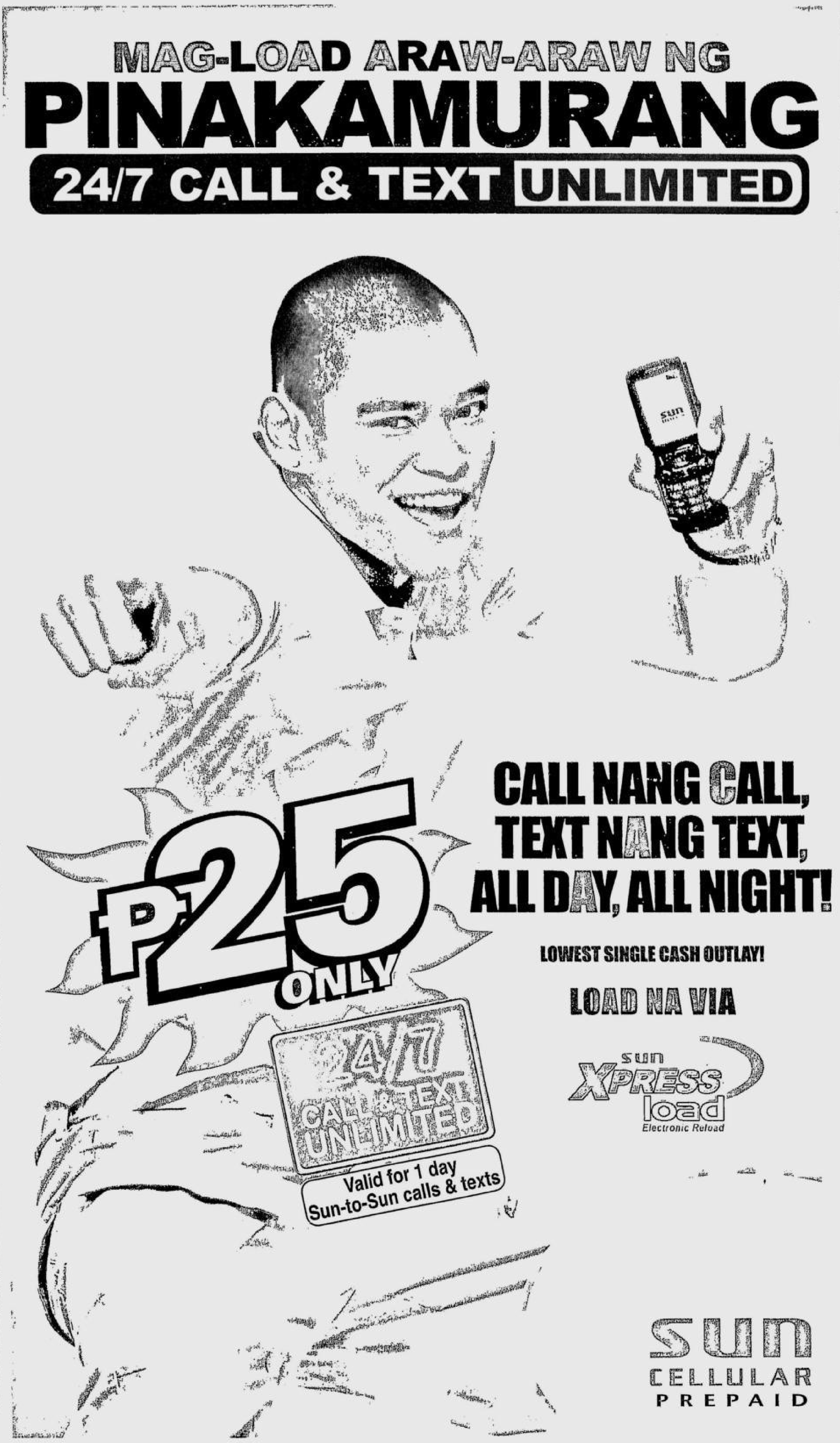
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Cooking his way to the boob tube

By Joy M. Cabrillos, *2bU! Contributor*
Photos by Rudy Esperas

Celebrity chef Tristan Encarnacion is, at 27 years old, a TV star and a restaurateur

UNKNOWN TO MANY OF HIS viewers, "Unang Hirit's" resident chef Tristan Encarnacion's road to the kitchen was not a straight one.

Though he was raised in a family that loves to cook—his *lola* used to own a canteen and his mom bakes—it never crossed his mind that he could make a career out of cooking.

"I've always liked to cook but what I really wanted was to become a TV reporter or correspondent," Encarnacion says.

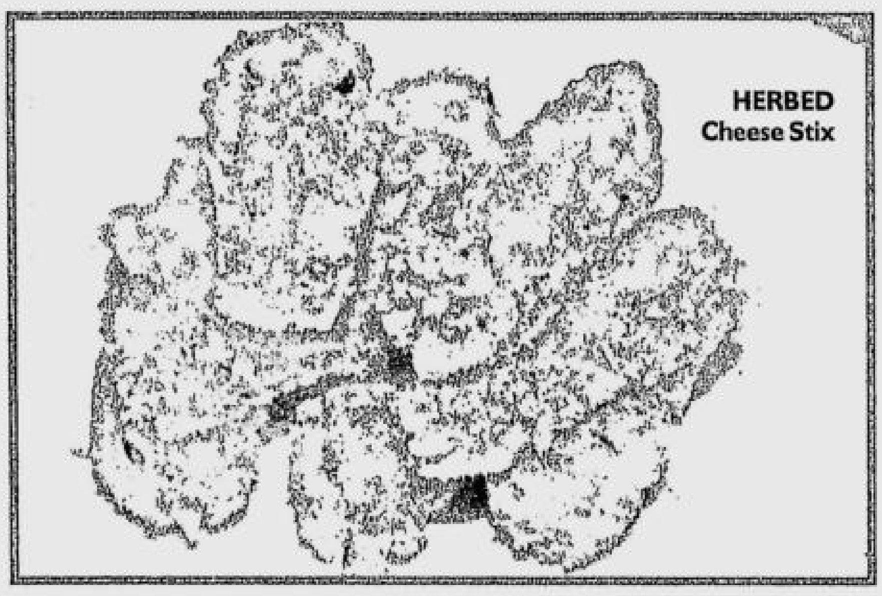
This was why he took up Mass Communications at the University of Sto. Tomas. However, the carefree Encarnacion thought there were more "interesting" and fun stuff to do outside of the classroom such as hanging out with his friends during school hours. Soon enough, during his sophomore year, he got a Pink Form, which meant he was only a step away from being kicked out of school.

But, as fate would have it, it was also around that time he learned that the Center for Culinary Arts (CCA) was already in Manila.

"I decided to tell my parents I wanted to transfer to CCA and take up a culinary course instead. Thankfully, they were very supportive," he says.

"The real reason I grabbed it was, I saw it as the only option available to me at the time. I was actually afraid my parents would send me to America and force me to take up a course I didn't like."

ADOBO Pizza


HERBED Cheese Stix

"THIS is where I'm supposed to be," says Chef Tristan.

Tough job

The first year at CCA was easy. He enjoyed learning new recipes and trying out all the food after he and his classmates were done cooking.

"It was on my second year there that I got a clearer glimpse of how tough a chef's job could be. It was physically and mentally taxing," he recalls. Part of the training included cleaning the kitchen and taking out the garbage.

It was common for Encarnacion to see some of his classmates crying while cooking. In fact, several of his classmates quit during the said period.

"What you see on the reality show 'Hell's Kitchen' is not too far from reality. Especially when you're working with foreign chefs, you would really hear a lot of words you can't find in the dictionary," he says.

Still, it was during this time that he realized cooking was something he wanted to do for the rest of his life.

"I thrive under pressure, so I actually enjoyed it," he says.

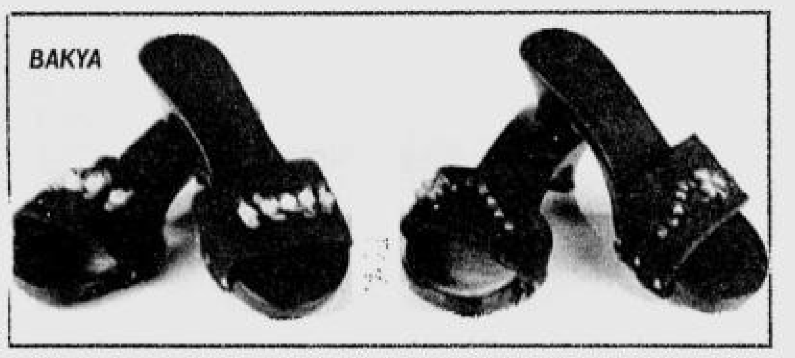
Encarnacion even volunteered to assist his teachers on weekends. "CCA offers short courses on weekends. Because I really wanted to learn everything I could, I volunteered to work as an assistant."

After getting his Certificate in Culinary

NAPOLEON a la Sel

BAMBOUCHE Cocktail

Mall provides venue for students' retail

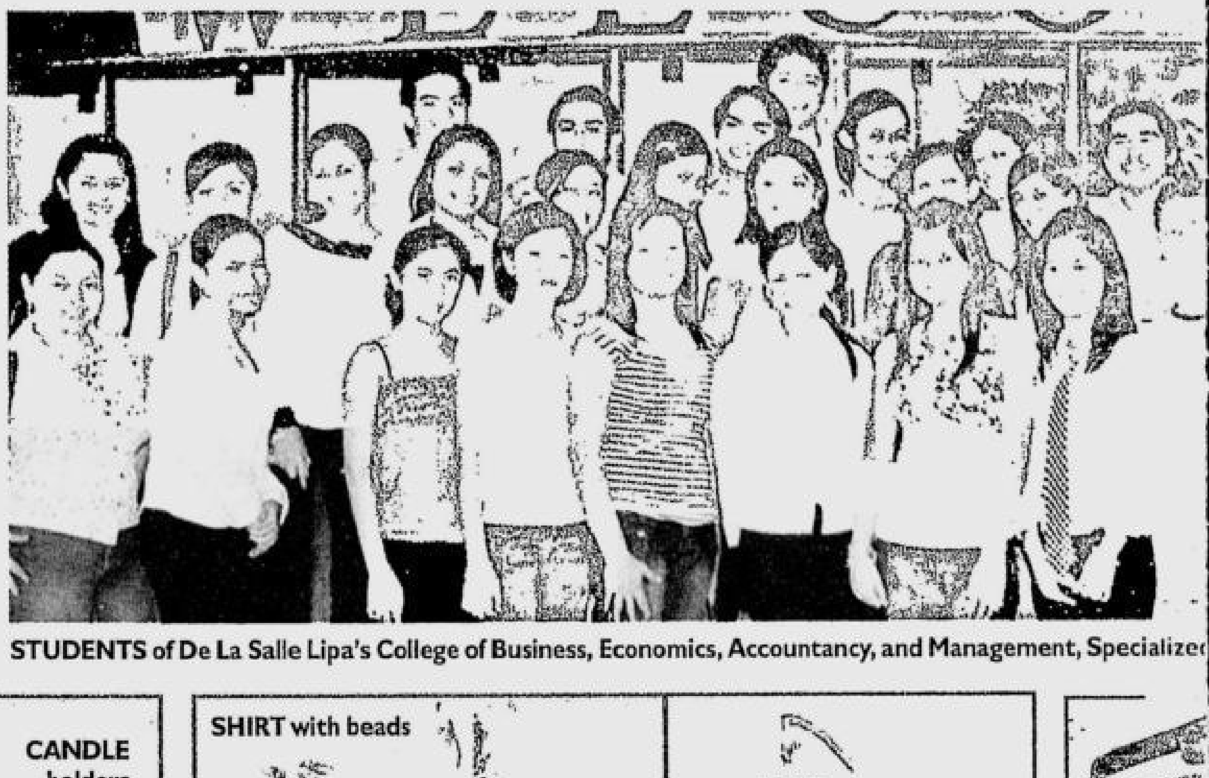

BAKYA

ROBINSONS MALLS PLAYED HOST TO the students of De La Salle Lipa's College of Business, Economics, Accountancy, and Management, Specialized Management and Economics Department, who were featured in Entrep Corner at Robinsons Place Lipa.

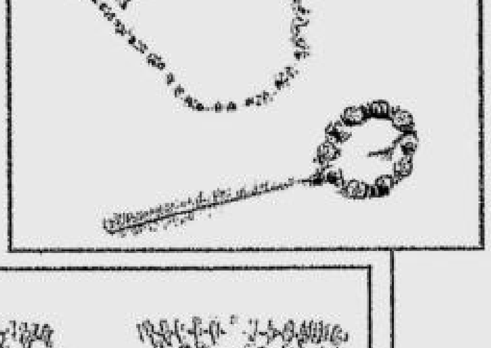
The students featured home décor of local materials such as *buko* and *sinamay* cloth, said Roseann Coscolluela-Villegas, Robinsons Land Corporation's corporate public relations manager.

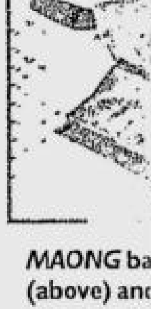
"They were also able to improvise on fashion staples such as thong slippers, accessories and bags while we also got a taste of their version of all-time Filipino favorites *suman* and *maja blanca*," she added.

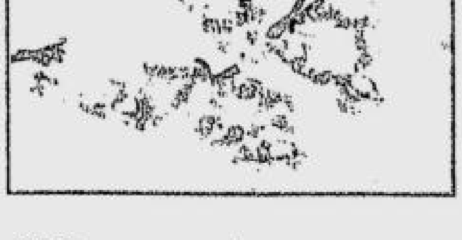
Amelito M. Castillo, De la Salle-Lipa dean, said the event afforded the students the chance to test their retail skills.


STUDENTS of De La Salle Lipa's College of Business, Economics, Accountancy, and Management, Specialized

CANDLE holders


SHIRT with beads


MAONG ba
(above) and
decorated
candles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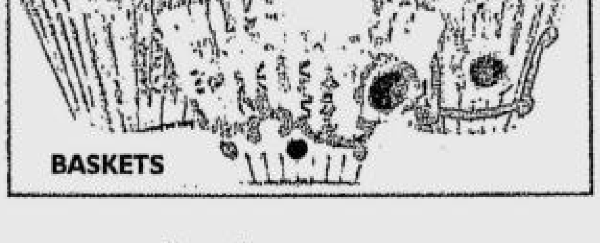
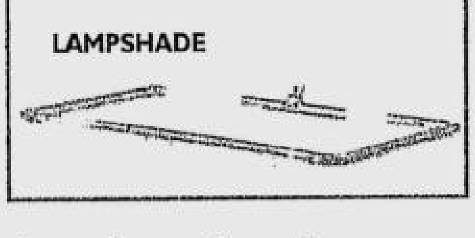

BASKETS


LAMPSHADE

ZUNIC: THE GIFT OF EFFORTLESS SLIMMING

Crash diets, pills, surgery, and injections can be safely forgotten – new slimming techniques can give you that slim, curvaceous figure you've long dreamed of without pain or a long wait.

"What we've done is to bring in the latest technology from overseas, and apply it to the problems associated with obesity and overeating," says Roxanne Sarthou, Managing Director of the state-of-the-art slimming centers known as Zunic. "We help people lose weight so that they can begin exercising if they want to, whether they wish to modify their eating habits or not."

Zunic's Slimming and Body Sculpting Method melts away unsightly body fat without surgery, diet, pills or exercise. Weight loss is conducted without the sweating, anxiety, and pain associated with traditional methods.

A client stretches out comfortably on a plush treatment couch, and fat is literally melted away using the latest technology such as light therapy, lasers, and radio frequency to non-invasively reach under the skin and dissolve stubborn fat deposits. The results are close to instantaneous. Visible results are evident in the course of a single treatment, and can be seen in as little as 45 minutes. Up to 24 hours after treatment, fat is excreted through normal body functions, with no side effects whatsoever.

To give its clients the best possible care, Zunic maintains a full complement of trained personnel. Pre-treatment medical checks are performed by fully trained Program Consultants side-by-side with licensed physicians, and all treatments are conducted by highly qualified medical staff.

Best of all, Zunic provides results with a minimum of time and effort. Zunic clients can waltz right out of their treatments and back into their lives without a pause!

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Business with a social vision

From page C

The award was determined by how successful the awardees were in reflecting the United Nations' Millennium Campaign in their businesses. Established by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in 2002, the Millennium Campaign includes the Millennium Development Goals, a set of resolutions formally adopted by 189 countries to commit countries to work together to achieve eight goals: to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, ensure all children complete primary school, promote gender equality, improve the health of mothers and children, reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, protect the environment, create a global partnership for development by ensuring rich countries give more, and better aid, debt relief and trade opportunities to poorer countries.

According to Witoelar, who served as one of the judges, the five awardees "are individuals of high caliber, shining examples of how an individual's hard work can help benefit communities through innovative ideas."

DHL PHILIPPINES communications manager Marie Afuang, Acting DHL Express Asia-Pacific CEO Dan McHugh, Lisa McHugh, and the Diaz family

She continued, "Everyone has a role to play in helping societies achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The corporate world, in particular, plays a vital catalytic role in driving and sustaining the momentum to bring about substantial change. Gestures of
DHL YES Awards wil
social entrepreneurs

E-mail the auth
ji@yahoo.com

Arts from CCA, he decided to rest for a few months before applying for a job.

"My dad (the late Jun Encarnacion) was already sick then, so I decided to spend more time at home with him," he says.

A month after his dad passed away, he went to the US to work for a new hotel in Naples City, Florida.

"I got hired by Marco Beach Ocean Resort. I started out flipping burgers by the beach. Then I moved up to handle the fresh pasta and breads station, the breakfast station, the cold and dessert station, and then the grill and sauce station."

"It was in the US where I learned to become independent. I had to wash my own clothes and stuff. Fortunately, there, people didn't really mind if you wore clothes without ironing them," Encarnacion recalls, laughing. It was there that he decided to get a tattoo. Now he has tattoos on both his upper arms.

Guesting stint

His experience in the US taught him to appreciate and respect people from different cultures and nationalities. It widened his perspective. "I even had the chance to date women from different countries," he says with a naughty grin.

In February 2003 he came home for a vacation. "I realized I missed my family so much that I decided to stay," says Encarnacion. He had a short stint at a restaurant called Solas in Quezon City before he decided to try something new.

"I quit and decided to concentrate on being a percussionist for several acoustic bands. I guess I got burned out."

But destiny did not allow him to stay out of the kitchen for long. In December 2005, just before Christmas, he got a call asking if he wanted to be a guest chef on GMA 7's morning show "Unang Hirit." He never thought the one-time guesting stint would become a weekly gig that would change his life forever.

"I admit being on TV gave me a thrill. Back when I was just starting I would even text my friends to watch me. I would even wake my sister up just to force her to watch me," he says.

He simply never thought his dream of being on TV would come true.

Bigger break

Last year, Encarnacion's mom brought up the idea of a restaurant of his own, which led to the opening of Bambouche Bistro, along Congressional Avenue in Quezon City, in May 2006.

But a bigger break was yet to come. In August of that year, Sunnex, an international cookware brand, asked if he wanted to have his own cookware line.

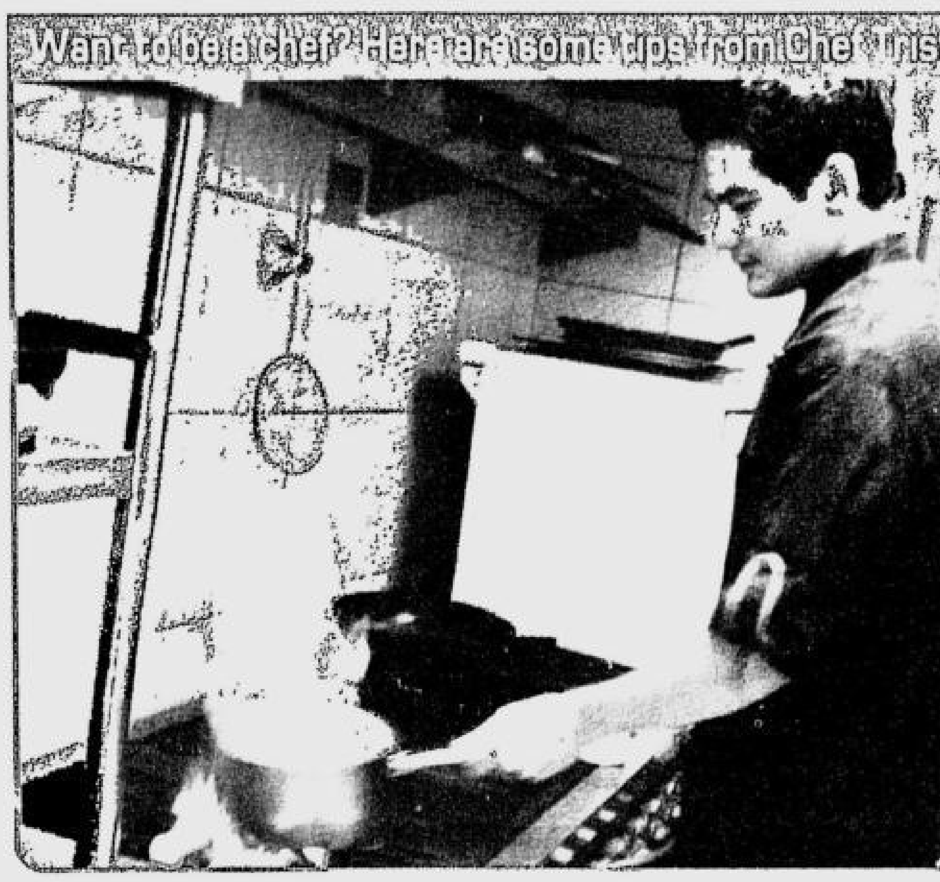
The Chef Tristan Chef's Classics by Sunnex, a line that bears the signature of Encarnacion, was launched in April 2007, making him the first ever Filipino chef to endorse a cookware line.

The line offers saucepans, saucepots, pasta cooker pots, frying pans, grill pans, woks and kitchen accessories such as silicon scraper, silicon tongs, a professional knife set and kitchen tools.

These days, Encarnacion can be seen on "Unang Hirit" four times a week. And he now has his own segment called UH Star Recipe where he gets to cook with a celebrity.

"I believe this is exactly where I'm supposed to be," he says.

Want to be a chef? Here are some tips from Chef Tristan Encarnacion



1. Be patient. You have to work your way up. There are no shortcuts.
2. Be passionate. Put your heart into what you're doing.
3. Always be hungry for knowledge. Take every opportunity to learn new things.
4. Never forget the people you meet on your way up. Be grateful to your mentors. Chef Tristan considers chefs Ferns Aracama, Rowena Bautista and Boy Logro his mentors.
5. Keep your feet on the ground.
6. Always smile and be happy.

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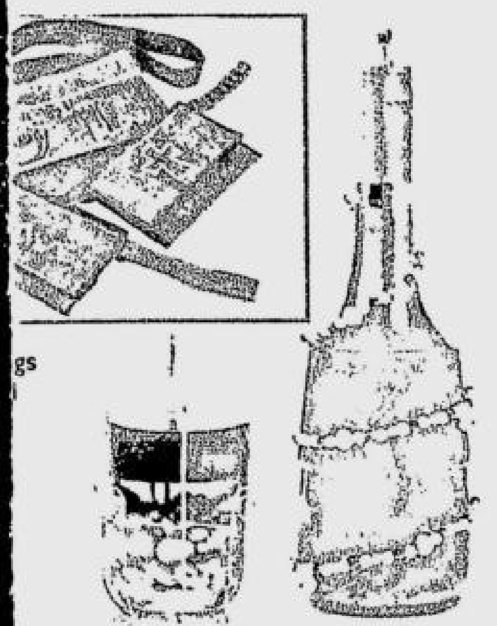
kills

Management and Economics Department



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PORE WINNER
NG
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DHL YES Awards participants

r at biancaconsun-

Kumpletuhin ang sarap ng buhay!
AJINOMOTO
GINISA
FLAVOR MIX
NET WT 50 g
- Christine Jacob-Sandejas
Mother, Athlete, TV personality
AJINOMOTO
GINISA
FLAVOR MIX
Do it all with Aji-Ginisa

Non-stop
ang action.
HELLO!
Coated
HELLO!
Coated
HELLO!
Coated
Hello! lang nang Hello!

Dahil sa sarap ng light wafers wrapped in chocolate, 'di mo talaga titigilan ang Hello!

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It's more beautiful with a
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A delightful treat of fresh banana chunks and premium walnuts on a bed of chocolate-toffee. Topped with swirling cream and choco-caramel drizzle. All cradled on a delicious graham crust.

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The 2bU! guide to the new iPods

Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
iPod
9:42 AM
NELLY FURTADO
Nelly Furtado
Loose

Or why we are drooling these days

By Pam Pastor

ON WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN just another geek session on an ordinary day earlier this month, a friend fired up her Powerbook and clicked on Safari.

"Whoa!" she said. I looked up from my iBook and saw the reason behind her amazement.

Apple's homepage.

My jaw dropped. Different kinds of new iPods were available for the world's Steve Jobs worshippers.

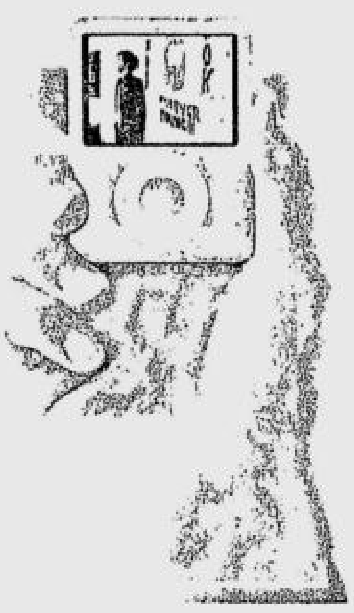
And because I am one of them, I immediately contacted my super-secret Apple spy and asked why he didn't tell me they were coming.

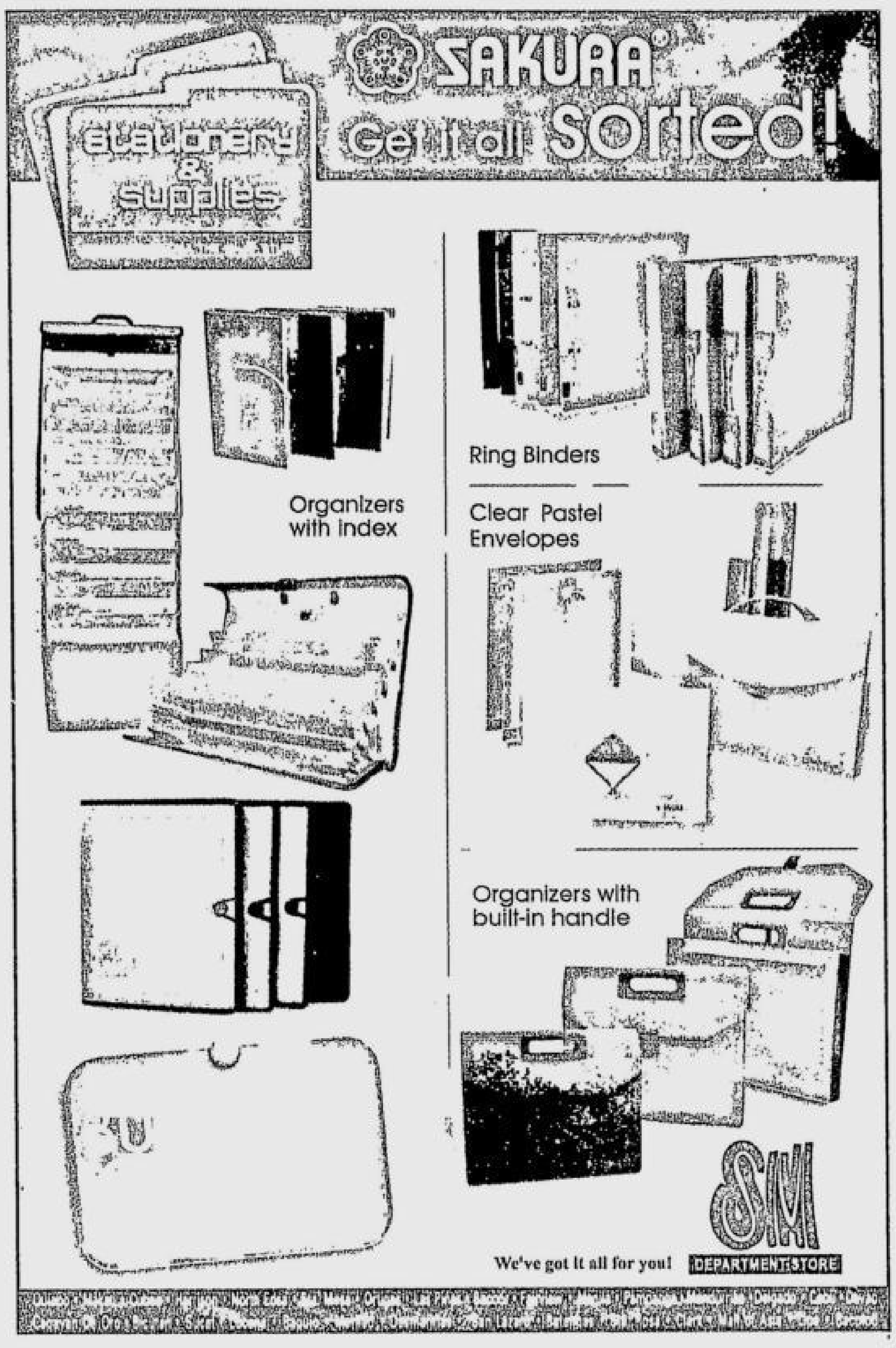
"I didn't know either," he protested.

But now we all know. And now that we've gotten over the surprise, we have a bigger dilemma to face—which one to buy.

Here's our attempt at making the decision process a little easier for Apple heads: the 2bU! guide to the new iPods.

THE 2BU/ D2

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Organizers with index
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Clear Pastel Envelopes
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SM
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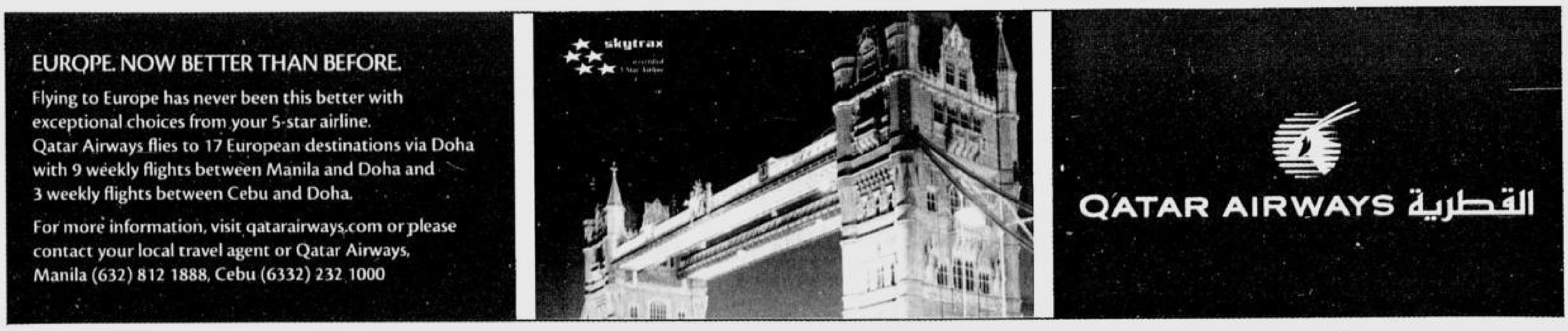
hair accessories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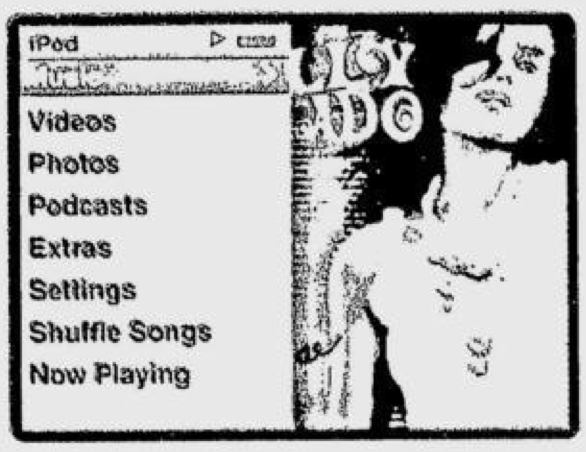
The 2bU! guide to the new iPod

From page D1



iPod Classic

The 411: This is the sixth-generation iPod and it's bound to make Steve Jobs proud.

What it can keep: Music, photos, home videos, games. "The iPod classic is ideal for people who want to hold everything on their iPod," said Jobs.

The capacity: Choose between 80GB or 160GB (that's 40,000 songs or 200 hours of video, baby).

What's new: An enhanced user interface featuring Cover Flow and a new all-metal anodized aluminum and polished stainless steel enclosure

More reasons to drool: The iPod Classic is preloaded with iQuiz, the entertainment trivia game; Vortex, a fast-paced 360-degree brick-bashing game; and Klondike, the popular solitaire card game.

Battery life: Features up to 40 hours of music playback and seven hours of video playback in the 160GB model, and up to 30 hours of music playback and five hours of video playback in the 80GB model on a single charge

Colors: Silver or black

The damage: P15,790 for the 80GB model and P22,090 for the 160GB model

iPod Nano

The 411: The iPod Nano can now play video. "We've taken the most popular music player in the world and added stunning video playback just in time for the holiday season," said Jobs.

The capacity: Choose between the 4GB and 8GB models.

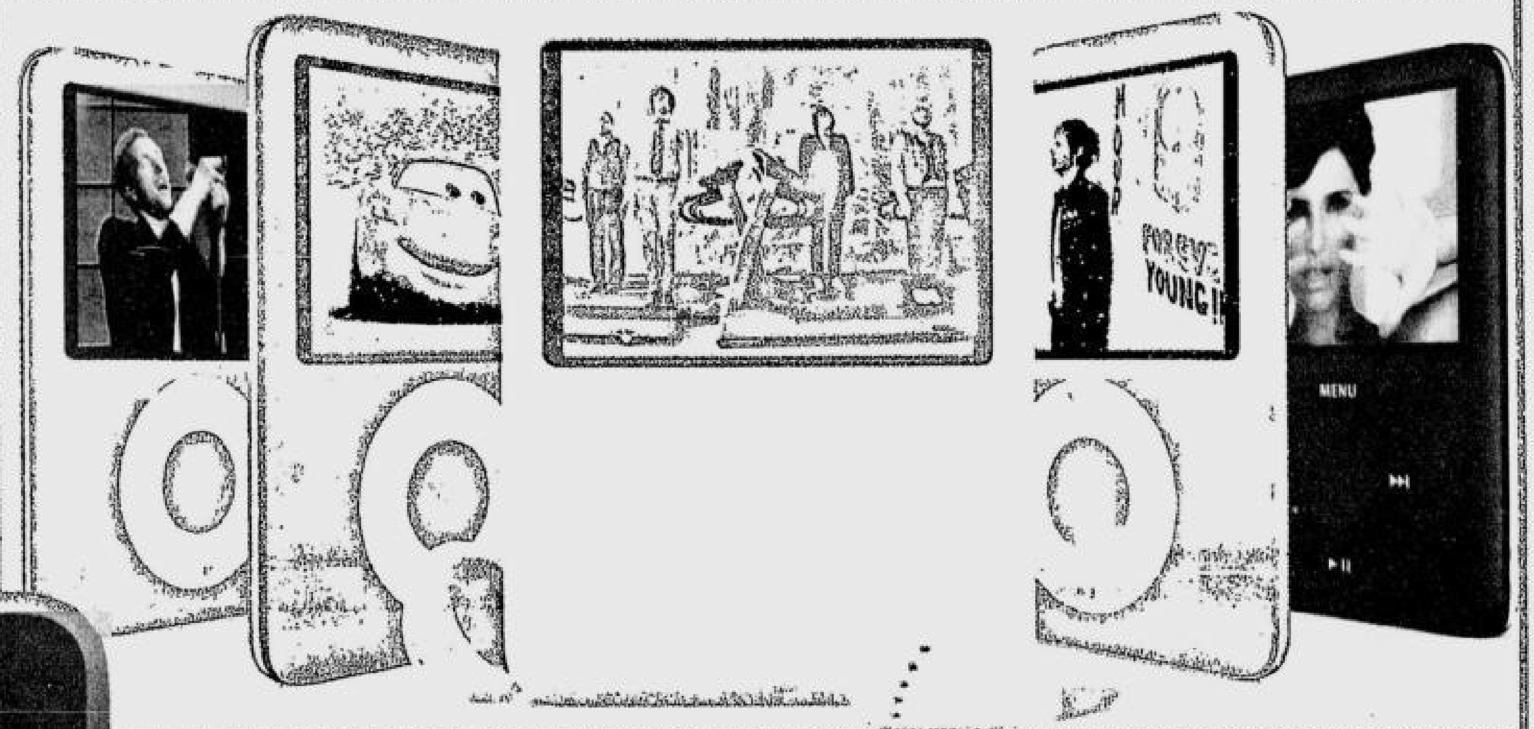
What's new: The larger two-inch display with 204 pixels per inch, which lets users watch their favorite home movies and photos in the same resolution they enjoy on the iPod Video. Aside from video playback, an enhanced user interface featuring Cover Flow, which allows you to scroll through your entire music collection by album cover artwork using the Click Wheel, and a new design

More reasons to drool: Three fun games—iQuiz, the entertainment trivia game; Vortex, a fast-paced 360-degree brick-bashing game; and Klondike, the popular solitaire card game.

Battery life: Up to 24 hours of audio playback or five hours of video playback on a single charge

Colors: The 4GB comes in silver and the 8GB model comes in silver, black, blue and green.

The damage: The 4GB model is sold for P9,090 while the 8GB model is sold for P12,390.



iPod Touch

The 411: The iPod Touch features Apple's revolutionary multi-touch user interface that enables users to find and enjoy all of their music, videos, photos and more on its gorgeous widescreen display with just the touch of a finger—technology that was first introduced on the iPhone.

"The iPod touch is a landmark iPod, ushering in a whole new generation of features based on its revolutionary multi-touch interface and built-in Wi-Fi wireless networking," Jobs explained.

The capacity: Choose between the 8GB and 16GB models.

What's new: Aside from the multi-touch user interface, the iPod Touch features Wi-Fi wireless networking, the first on any iPod; Safari, which allows users to wirelessly view web pages just as they look on their computer; and Apple's YouTube application, which lets users wirelessly watch over 10 million free videos

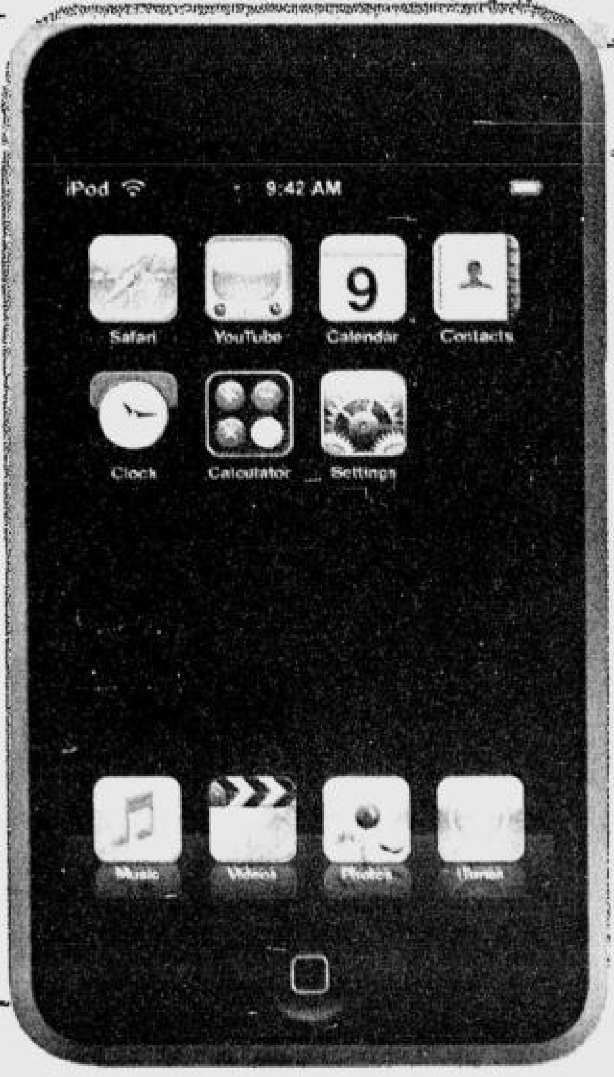
More reasons to drool: The iPod touch is only 8-mm thin and has a 3.5-inch widescreen display. It also has a built-in accelerometer that automatically senses when you rotate it into its landscape position. iPod Touch also has a built-in ambient light sensor that automatically adjusts the display's brightness.

Battery life: iPod touch features up to 22 hours of audio playback and up to five hours of video playback.

Colors: Black

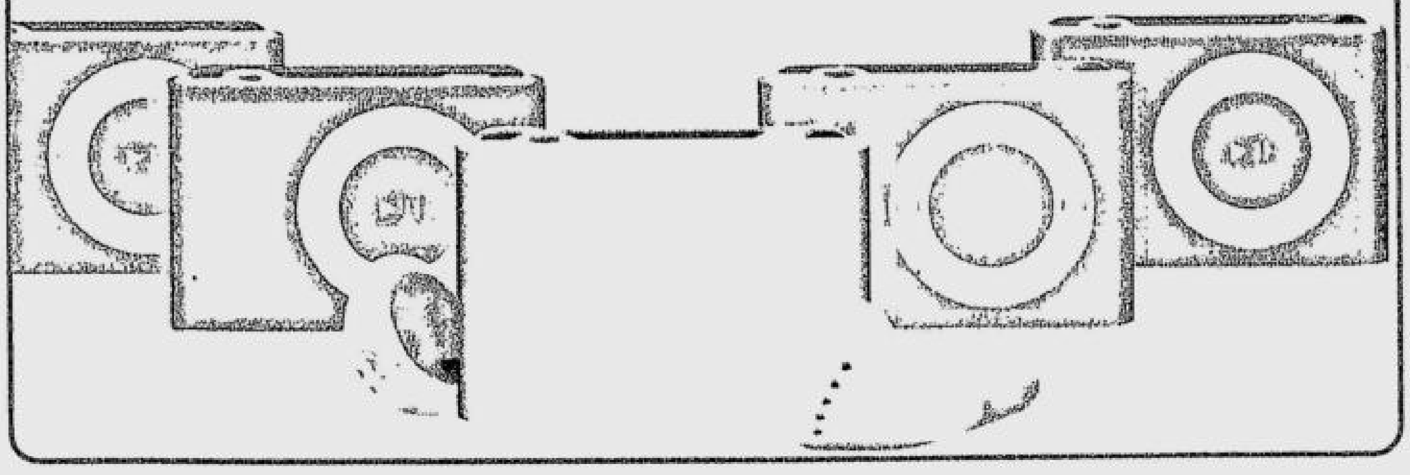
The damage: The 8GB model is P19,090 and the 16GB model is P25,490.

The iPod Touch will be available later this month.



iPod Shuffle

The 1GB iPod shuffle comes in four new colors and the traditional silver.



Unique show on bizarre cuisine features Pinoy 'balut' and worms

PACKING AN OPEN AND curious mind, a strong stomach and a healthy appetite for travel, internationally renowned chef and food writer Andrew Zimmern knows all about the global pantry and is prepared to share that knowledge with viewers.

On Discovery Travel and Living's "Bizarre Foods," he sets out to taste local delicacies from around the globe—even when the delicacies are goat's head, tongue salad and pigeon pie. The episodes air every Wednesday, 10-11 p.m.

One of the most versatile and knowledgeable personalities in the food world, Zimmern is a food writer, dining critic, radio talk show host, TV personality, chef and teacher.

Writing for many national magazines and publications, Andrew has received the American Society of Professional Journalists' Page One Award.

Through his own extensive travel background, Andrew has determined that one of the best ways to understand a culture fully is by learning about the traditional fare that has fed the native population for centuries.

He knows that what seems foreign, unusual and even highly unappetizing on one side of the planet may be a sacred dish on the other. Partaking in such experiences often proves the best way to appreciate a new culture and see the country.

Holding tight to the mantra, "If it looks good, eat it, and if it tastes good, have seconds," Andrew tastes his way around the world eating lamb's eyes, boiled cow hooves, fried crickets, snail porridge and even jellied moose nose.

> Andrew Zimmern tastes the world by storm, eating 'Bizarre Foods' for Discovery Travel & Living's premiere series

Exposing the beauty of both the locations and the traditions behind the foods he consumes, he broadens the viewers' culinary horizons and encourages their palates to venture outside grilled cheese sandwiches and hamburgers and take a chance to taste the world.

Philippines

On his Philippine journey (aired last Sept. 19 and 22), Andrew ate his way across Luzon and Palawan. Just outside of bustling Manila, Andrew found a town (Pateros) known for making one of the most bizarre treats yet—balut.

From there, Andrew headed north to the culinary capital of Pampanga, where he feasted on stuffed frog and sautéed crickets.

Next stop was Angono, where Andrew enjoyed an amazing meal at Balaw Balaw, a restaurant and art gallery known for its unusual foods. Andrew tasted *uok*, a sautéed giant local worm harvested from fallen trees.

In Palawan, Andrew was introduced to another worm dish—large, clear worms pulled from mangrove branches that are eaten while they are still squirming. Andrew pulled off the head, dipped in some salt and down the hatch it went.

Equador

Andrew's journey starts in the Equadorian capitol of Quito, which sits more than 10,000 above sea level. Andrew's first stop is the equator. Andrew's lunch, the quintessential bizarre food of Ecuador, the beloved delicacy *cuy*... is better known as guinea pig.

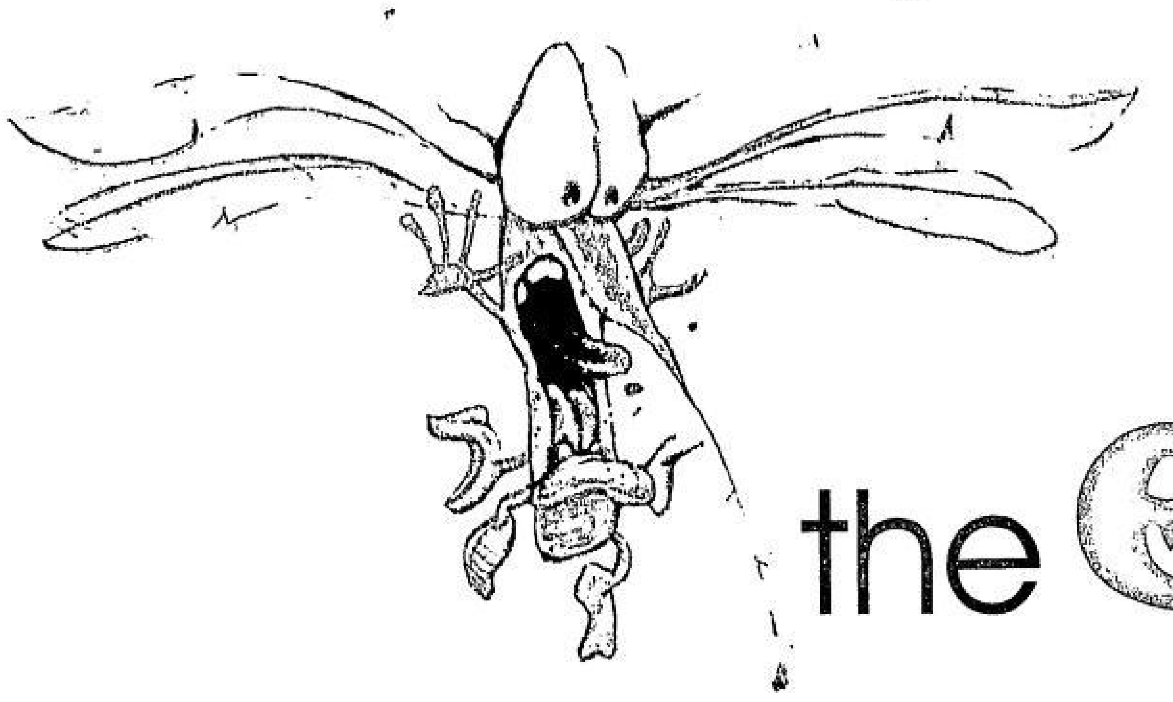
Next stop is Otavalo, home to the country's largest outdoor market. The main attraction here is a local witch doctor who attempts to cleanse Andrew.

From there, it's off to Ecuador's portion of the Amazon Rainforest, where Andrew feasts on live lemon ants in the jungle. Then it's off on a fishing trip where the fresh catch is piranha.

And finally, Andrews treks deep into the Amazon in search of coconut grubs, which are pulled live from the trees and grilled up for Andrew to enjoy, jungle style. (Premieres tonight at 10 p.m.; encores Sept. 29 at 11 p.m.).

Other destinations in the series: the United Kingdom, New York, the Gulf Coast Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico, Alaska, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Visit www.travelandlivingasia.com.



DENGUE: Knowing the enemy

Dengue fever and dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) are acute febrile diseases, found in the tropics, with a geographical spread similar to malaria. One major difference, however, is that malaria is often eradicated in major cities, where as dengue is often found in urban areas of developed tropical nations, like Singapore. Caused by one of four closely related virus serotypes of the genus Flavivirus, family Flaviviridae, each serotype is sufficiently different that there is no cross-protection and epidemics caused by multiple serotypes (hyperendemicity) can occur. Dengue is transmitted to humans by the Aedes aegypti (rarely Aedes albopictus) mosquito, which feeds during the day.

Signs and symptoms

This infectious disease is manifested by a sudden onset of fever, with severe headache, muscle and joint pains (myalgias and arthralgias - severe pain gives it the name break-bone fever or bonecrusher disease) and rashes; the dengue rash is characteristically bright red petechia and usually appears first on the lower limbs and the chest - in some patients, it spreads to cover most of the body. There may also be gastritis with some combination of associated abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

Some cases develop much milder symptoms which can, when no rash is present, be misdiagnosed as influenza or other viral infection. Thus travelers from tropical areas may inadvertently pass on dengue in their home countries, having not been properly diagnosed at the height of their illness. Patients with dengue can only pass on the infection through mosquitoes or blood products while they are still febrile.

The classic dengue fever lasts about six to seven days, with a smaller peak of fever at the trailing end of the fever (the so-called "biphasic pattern"). Clinically, the platelet count will drop until the patient's temperature is normal.

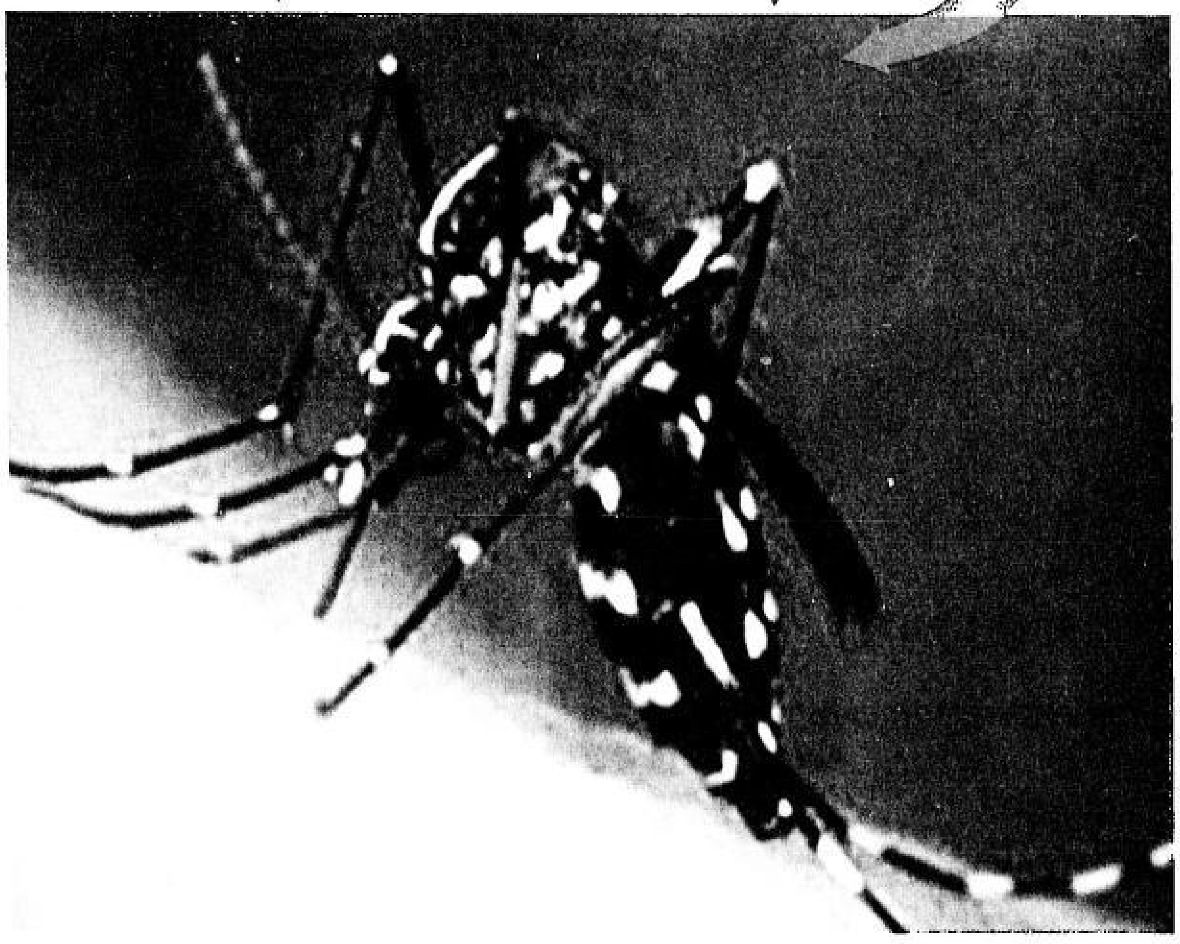
Cases of DHF also show higher fever, haemorrhagic phenomena, thrombocytopenia, and haemoconcentration. A small proportion of cases lead to dengue shock syndrome (DSS) which has a high mortality rate.

Treatment

The mainstay of treatment is supportive therapy. Increased oral fluid intake is recommended to prevent dehydration. Supplementation with intravenous fluids may be necessary to prevent dehydration and significant hemoconcentration if the patient is unable to maintain oral intake. A platelet transfusion is indicated in rare cases if the platelet level drops significantly (below 20,000) or if there is significant bleeding.

The presence of melena may indicate internal gastrointestinal bleeding requiring platelet and/or red blood cell transfusion.

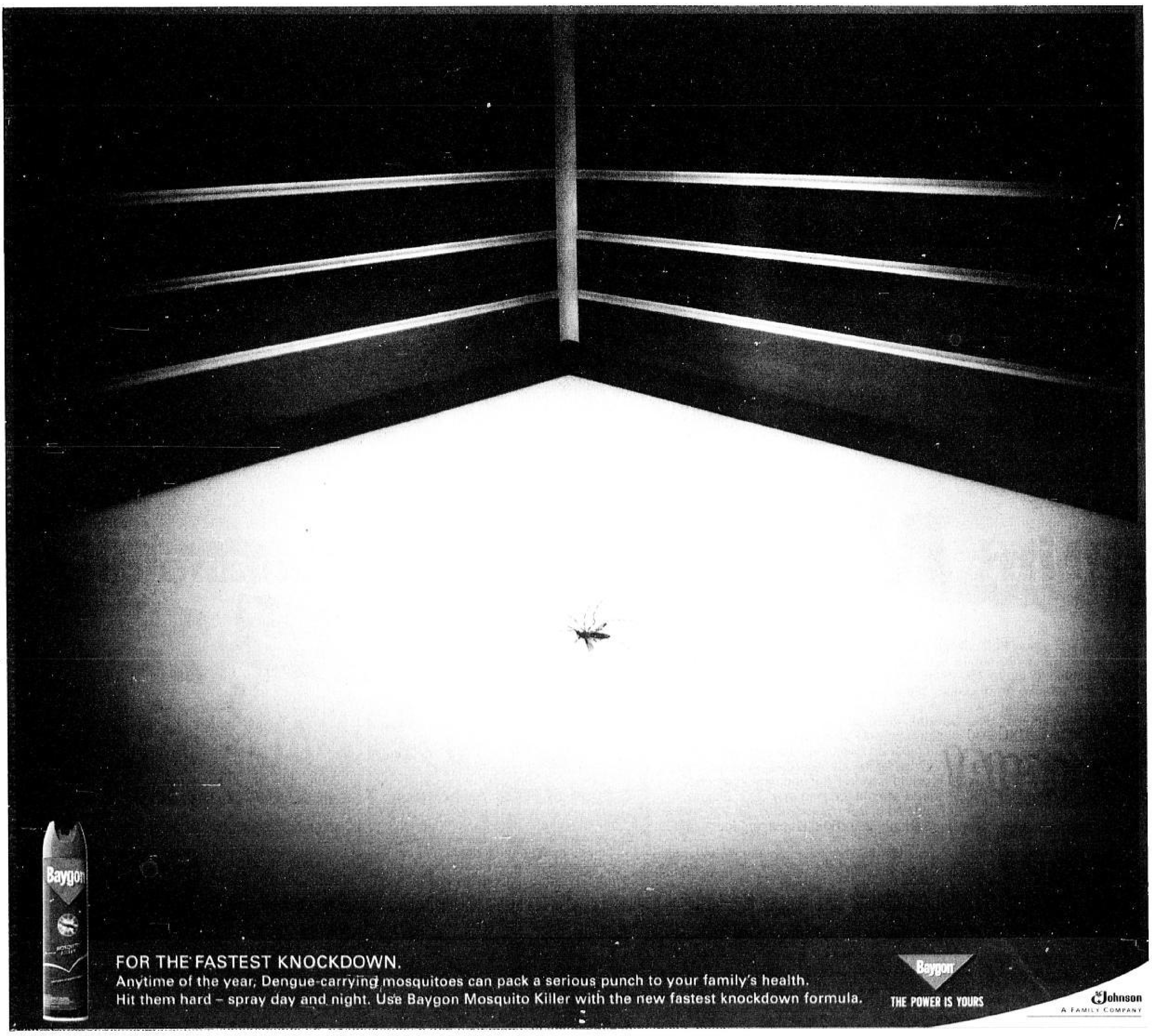
It is very important to avoid aspirin and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications. These drugs are often used to treat pain and fever though in this case they may actually aggravate the bleeding tendency associated with some of these infections. Patients should receive instead acetaminophen preparations to deal with these symptoms if dengue is suspected.



Prevention

Primary prevention of dengue mainly resides in eliminating or reducing the mosquito vector for dengue. Public spraying for mosquitoes is the most important aspect of this vector. Application of larvicides to standing water is more effective in the long term control of mosquitoes. Initiatives to eradicate pools of standing water (such as in flowerpots) have proven useful in controlling mosquito-borne diseases. Personal prevention consists of the use of mosquito nets, repellents, cover exposed skin, use bednets, and avoiding endemic areas.

www.wikipedia.org


FOR THE FASTEST KNOCKDOWN.
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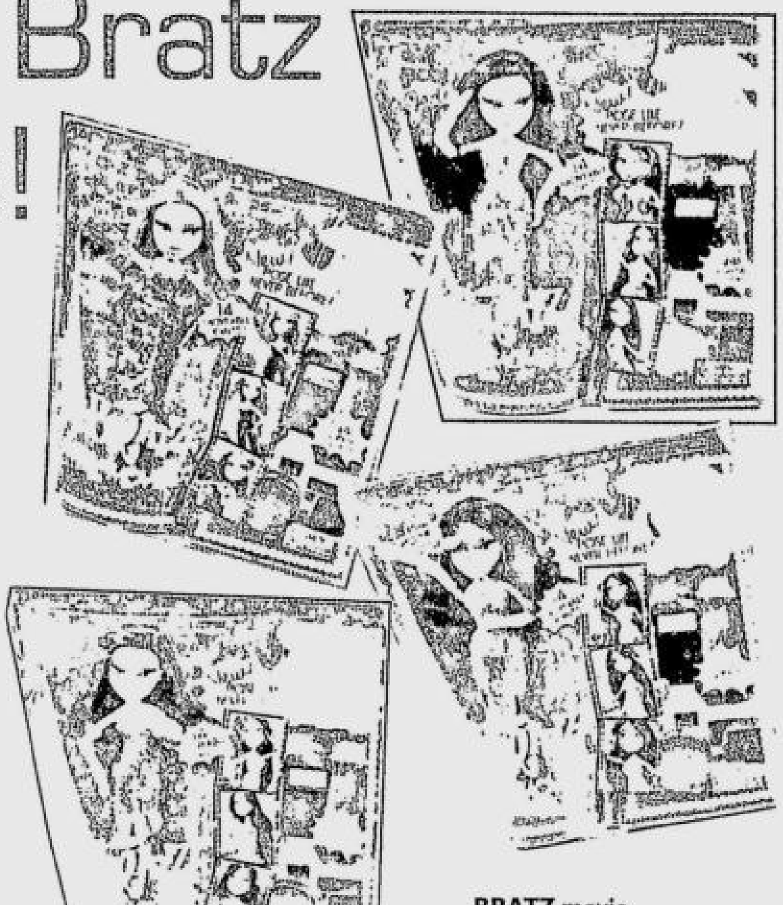
INQUIRER 2bU! is giving away Bratz dolls. Tell us who your favorite Bratz character is and why. E-mail your entries, along with your name, age, school and contact info, to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph

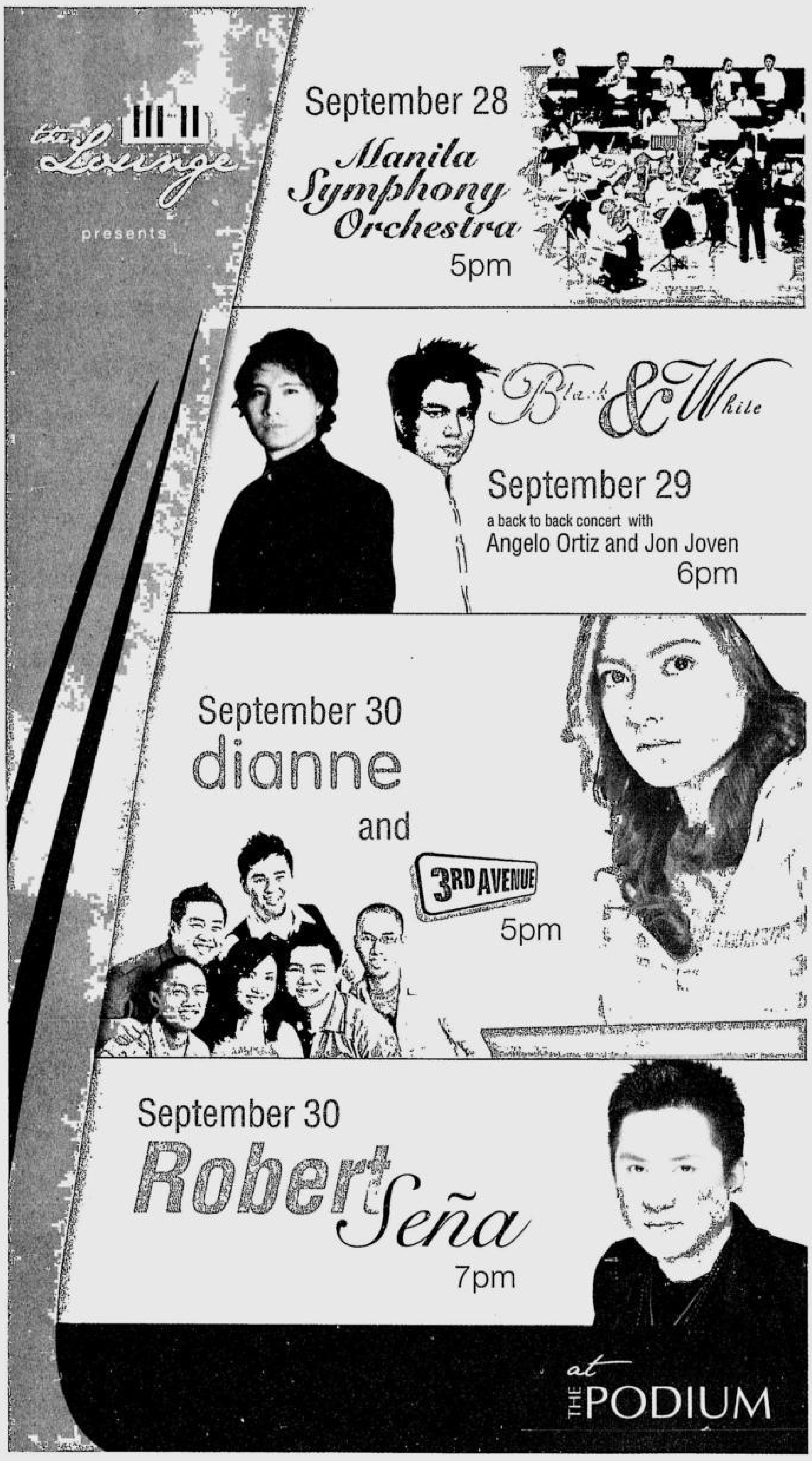
Win Bratz dolls!

IN CELEBRATION of their first ever Bratz theatrical motion picture comes Bratz the movie collection! Bratz movie collection comes with 14 moveable joints, glamorous clothes and real working camera as seen in "Bratz The Movie."

The only girls with a passion for fashion, Bratz dolls are exclusively distributed by Ban Kee Trading Inc., and are available in all leading department stores and toy stores nationwide.



BRATZ movie collection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September 28
Manila Symphony Orchestra
5pm

Black & White
September 29
a back to back concert with
Angelo Ortiz and Jon Joven
6pm

September 30
dianne
and
3RD AVENUE
5pm

September 30
Robert Seña
7pm

at THE PODIUM

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A FASHION FREAKS special!

Big leapfrog for young men's fashion

Le Froge has won the Philippine Fashion Award for male teen apparel

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Roger Carpio

THE FASHION FREAKS HAVE been guilty of a crime—and it's called Neglecting Fashion For Men.

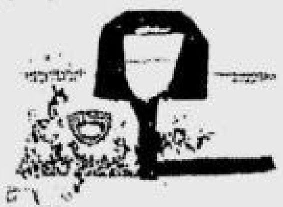
This week we begin atonement for our sins by raiding the racks of Le Froge, the Philippine Fashion Awards 2006 awardee for Boys' Teen Apparel.

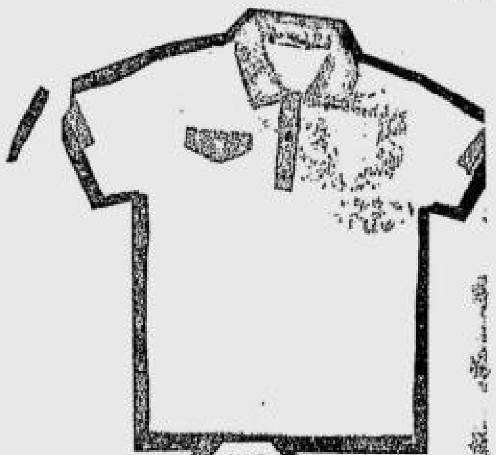
They've come out with a new collection of casual tops for guys. The shirts, which come in a wide range of designs, boast of a killer fusion of comfort and function and the fabrics used are light and cool.

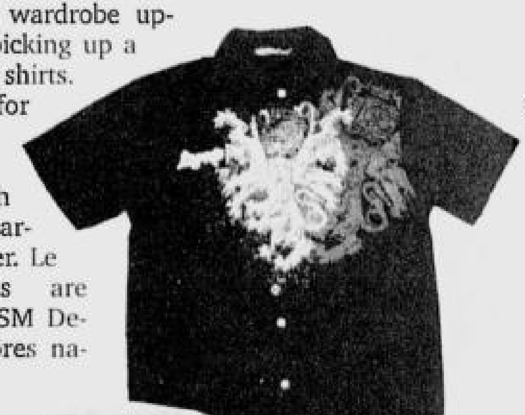
They're great for guys who want fuss-free dressing and who think a wardrobe update means picking up a couple of new shirts.

Watch out for Le Froge Holiday Collection which will hit the market in October. Le Froge items are available in SM Department Stores nationwide.

STOCK up on shirts and jackets from Le Froge.







Facial Care Centre & Raymund Isaac

25 Years of Capturing Beauty Together

After dedicating a quarter of a century to immortalizing beauty, two influential institutions celebrate their respective 25th anniversaries: Facial Care Centre and photographer Raymund Isaac. Individually, they have made their own significant contributions to the beauty industry, and together, have created a fusion that has redefined the concept of beauty throughout the years.

Facial Care Centre has been the leading name in professional skincare for more than two decades. The only skincare center that has prided itself for having the best and most advanced non-surgical skincare technology, they have been known for keeping a lot of beautiful, influential faces over the years. Kris Aquino, Dawn Zulueta, Cherie Gil, Amparito Lhuillier, Amanda Griffin – these are just some of the women who have represented the Facial Care brand.

According to Facial Care Centre President George T. Siy, Raymund's brilliant photography has been pivotal to their success as an eminent name in professional skincare. "Raymund has been instrumental in the execution of our advertising campaigns for more than a decade now," Mr. Siy recalls. "Far from being just a typical supplier-client tie-up, the relationship has blossomed into the strong partnership that it is today. Raymund shares our vision in that while we are focused on striding forward and pushing the boundaries, we continue to embrace the 'basics' which serve as strong, solid foundations in all our undertakings. There is an equal appreciation for the gains of the past as well as the promise the future brings. That common thread, apart from other shared ideals such as the constant pursuit of excellence, passion for beauty and commitment to our customers have made Raymund Isaac not just a partner but truly a part of the Facial Care Centre family."

Mr. George T. Siy, President of Facial Care Centre

And it has been a mutually favorable partnership for both parties. For the passionate photographer Raymund, the last 25 years of his journey as a photographer have been like a series of roller coaster rides. "You get into your seat with mixed feelings of fear and excitement," he describes. "It is replaced with the feeling of anxiety and anticipation as it approaches the highest point of the ride; as you reach the top of the crest you hold your breath and hope you won't fall; you start to wish you hadn't taken the ride in the first place but at the same time you're glad you did. It's that adrenaline rush, that addicting feeling you get that pushes you to want more. I am constantly wanting more. I want to prove to myself that I can do more. And I am very grateful to Facial Care for allowing my craft to complement their vision over the years."

Raymund Isaac

On September 28 at the Ayala Museum, these two giant names in the beauty industry will commemorate their 25 years with a joint celebration. An exhibit featuring some of the country's most beautiful faces as photographed by Raymund, as well as the launching of his beauty book entitled DIMSUM will be some of the highlights of the event. Entitled XXV: The Beauty Event, which will surely be graced by some of the country's most exquisite faces, it is expected to be nothing less than the most "beautiful" event of the year.

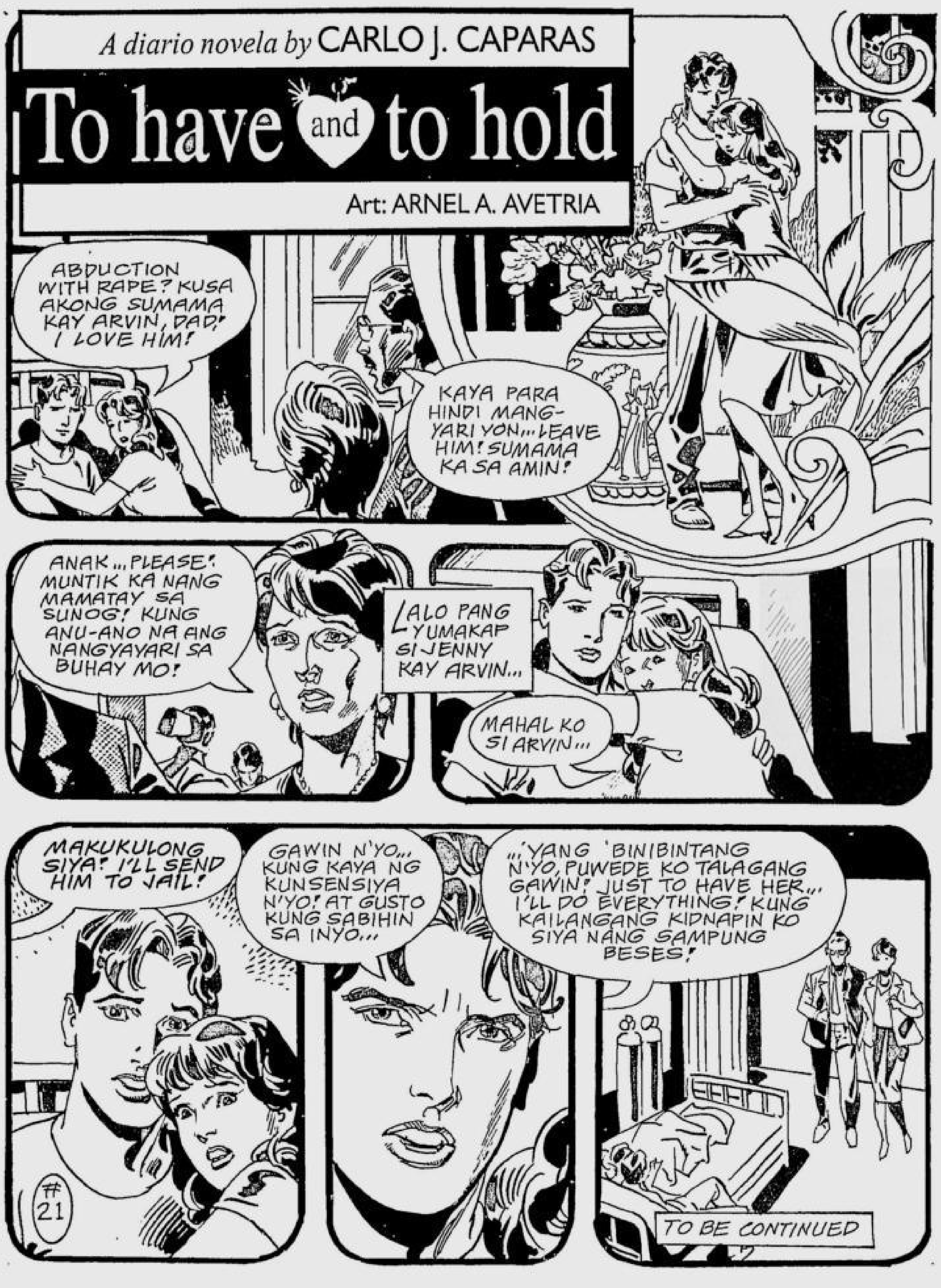
XXV
thebeautyevent

raymund isaac
&
facial care
CENTRE

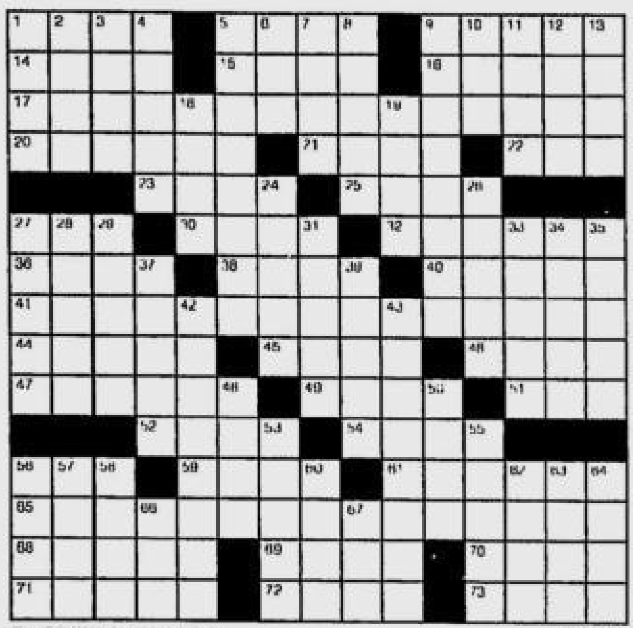
A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


ABDUCTION WITH RAPE? KUSA AKONG SUMAMA KAY ARVIN, DAD! I LOVE HIM!
KAYA PARA HINDI MANGYARI YON... LEAVE HIM! SUMAMA KA SA AMIN!
ANAK... PLEASE! MUNTIK KA NANG MAMATAY SA SUNOG! KUNG ANU-ANO NA ANG NANGYAYARI SA BUHAY MO!
LALO PANG YUMAKAP SI JENNY KAY ARVIN...
MAHAL KO SI ARVIN...
MAKUKULONG SIYA! I'LL SEND HIM TO JAIL!
GAWIN N'YO... KUNG KAYA NG KUNSENSIYA N'YO! AT GUSTO KUNG SABIHIN SA INYO...
...'YANG 'BINIBINTANG N'YO, PUWEDE KO TALAGANG GAWIN! JUST TO HAVE HER... I'LL DO EVERYTHING! KUNG KAILANGANG KIDNAPIN KO SIYA NANG SAMPUNG BESES!
#21
TO BE CONTINUED

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

9/26/07

ACROSS

1 Weaponry
5 Uncommon
9 Fierce anger
14 Type of opera?
15 Has debts
16 Drive in Beverly Hills
17 1953 U.S. Open winners
20 Prepared for publication
21 Observed
22 Soccer zero
23 Impudence
25 Droops
27 Tot's toy
30 School grps.
32 Showy feathers
36 Samoan port
38 Nobelist Wiesel
40 Minneapolis suburb
41 1960 U.S. Open winners
44 U.A.E. populace
45 Type of lily
46 Pianist Peter
47 Band of color
49 Viral lump
51 Gat or heater
52 Tattled
54 Scottish dance
56 Supped
59 1997 Peter Fonda title role
61 Fabricate
65 2002 U.S. Open winners
68 Comic Kovacs
69 Mid-March
70 Freudian concerns
71 Medicated
72 Preserving substance
73 Abie's Irish lass

DOWN

1 U.S. tennis stadium honoree
2 Primitive cross
3 Creche figures
4 Petty quarrels
5 Car with a rumble seat
6 Plant bristle
7 Beatty film
8 __ Park, CO
9 Tender of saddle horses
10 Hold up
11 Yemeni city
12 Actress Garr
13 "The __ Baltimore"
18 Kind of tide
19 Harvest
24 Casa rooms
26 Nation on the Nile
27 Spanish hors d'oeuvres
28 Eyeball-bending pictures
29 Covered with hair
31 Muscular strength
33 Money hoarder
34 January in Leon
35 Indian lute
37 Circuit
39 Mystery writers' award
42 Supported
43 Meteorological prediction
48 Ms. Fitzgerald
50 College period
53 Potvin or Savard
55 Pariah
56 Stunned
57 Corrida bull
58 Long periods
60 Icelandic epic
62 Jason's ship
63 New Mexican art colony
64 Latin 101 verb
66 Fizzle
67 Remote ctrl. button

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

O	L	L	A		P	E	R	U		S	P	E	C	S
L	E	O	N		E	M	U	S		M	E	N	L	O
D	A	C	K	R	A	M	B	O		A	T	S	E	A
T	R	A	L	A	L	A		P	A	C		N	A	N
I	N	T	E	R	S		D	E	C	K	H	A	N	D
M	E	E	S	E		A	I	N	U		O	R	E	S
E	D	D		B	I	O	S		R	O	M	E	R	O
			D	I	C	K	T	R	A	C	Y			
R	E	P	U	T	E		E	A	S	E		P	S	S
A	V	A	S		B	E	N	D		A	G	A	T	E
D	O	C	K	Y	A	R	D		S	N	A	P	A	T
I	L	K		A	G	O		T	A	I	L	O	R	S
A	V	R	I	L		D	U	C	K	C	L	O	T	H
T	E	A	S	E		E	L	B	E		O	S	L	O
E	S	T	E	S		S	A	Y	S		N	E	E	T

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9/26/07

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

			7	8	1			
		4			9			
	2			6				
4				1				
8				9			4	2
3					5	8		9
	7							4
		6					5	
			8	5	4	1		

Difficulty Level ★★★

9/26

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Answer to previous puzzle

2	7	4	9	5	1	3	8	6
1	8	5	6	3	4	2	9	7
3	9	6	8	2	7	5	4	1
7	5	8	2	1	6	4	3	9
6	1	2	3	4	9	7	5	8
9	4	3	5	7	8	1	6	2
8	3	7	4	9	2	6	1	5
4	2	9	1	6	5	8	7	3
5	6	1	7	8	3	9	2	4

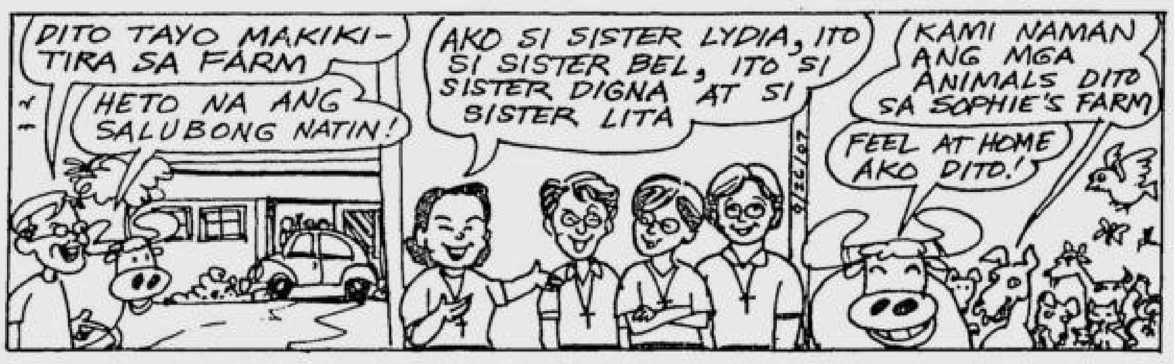
Difficulty Level ★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

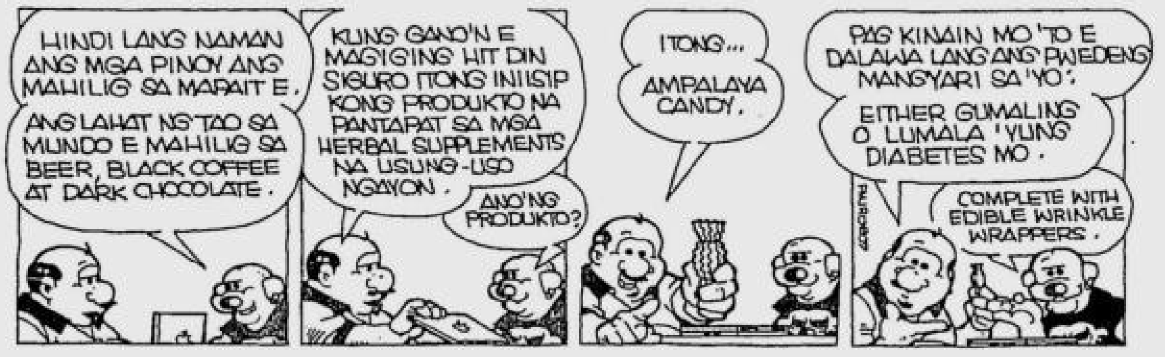
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DITO TAYO MAKIKITIRA SA FARM
HETO NA ANG SALUBONG NATIN!
AKO SI SISTER LYDIA, ITO SI SISTER BEL, ITO SI SISTER DIGNA AT SI SISTER LITA
KAMI NAMAN ANG MGA ANIMALS DITO SA SOPHIE'S FARM
FEEL AT HOME AKO DITO!

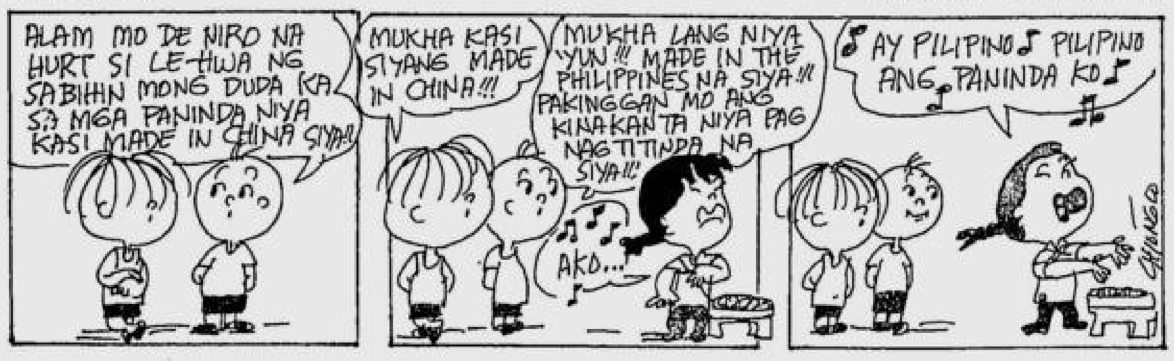
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI LANG NAMAN ANG MGA PINOY ANG MAHILIG SA MAPAIT E.
ANG LAHAT NG TAO SA MUNDO E MAHILIG SA BEER, BLACK COFFEE AT DARK CHOCOLATE.
KUNG GANO'N E MAGIGING HIT DIN SIGURO ITONG INIISIP KONG PRODUKTO NA PANTAPAT SA MGA HERBAL SUPPLEMENTS NA USUNG-USO NGAYON.
ANO'NG PRODUKTO?
ITONG... AMPALAYA CANDY.
PAG KINAIN MO 'TO E DALAWA LANG ANG PWEDENG MANGYARI SA 'YO:
EITHER GUMALING O LUMALA 'YUNG DIABETES MO.
COMPLETE WITH EDIBLE WRINKLE WRAPPERS.

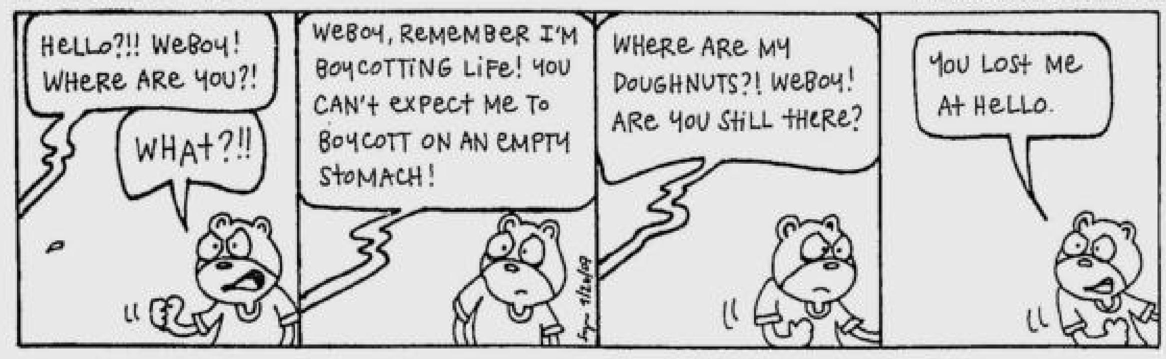
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO DE NIRO NA HURT SI LE-HWA NG SABIHIN MONG DUDA KA SA MGA PANINDA NIYA KASI MADE IN CHINA SIYA!!
MUKHA KASI SIYANG MADE IN CHINA!!!
MUKHA LANG NIYA 'YUN!!! MADE IN THE PHILIPPINES NA SIYA!!! PAKINGGAN MO ANG KINAKANTA NIYA PAG NAGTITINDA NA SIYA!!
AKO...
♪ AY PILIPINO ♪ PILIPINO ANG PANINDA KO ♪
CHIONGLO

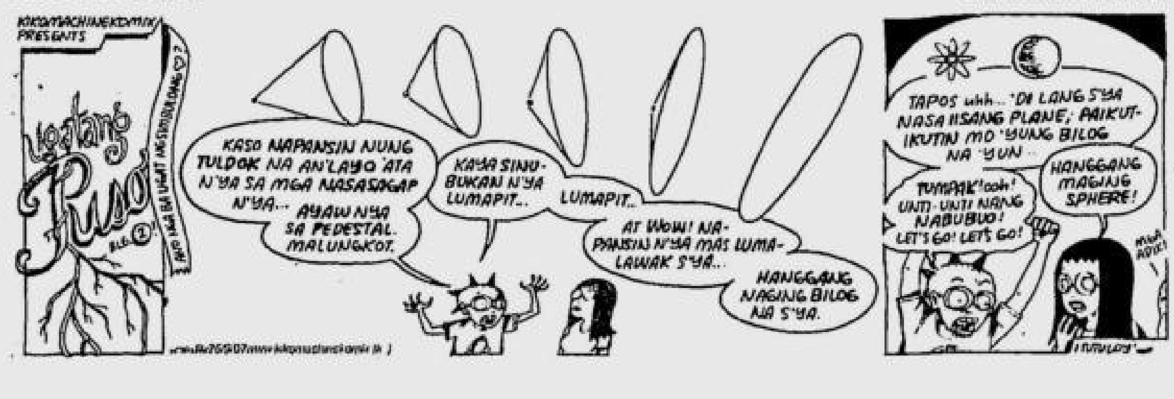
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HeLLo?!! WeBoy! WHeRe ARe you?!
WHAt?!!
WeBoy, ReMeMBeR I'M BoycoTTiNG LiFe! you CAN't expect Me To BoycoTT ON AN eMPTy StoMACH!
WHeRe ARe My DOUGHNUTS?! WeBoy! ARe you StiLL tHeRe?
you Lost Me At HeLLo.

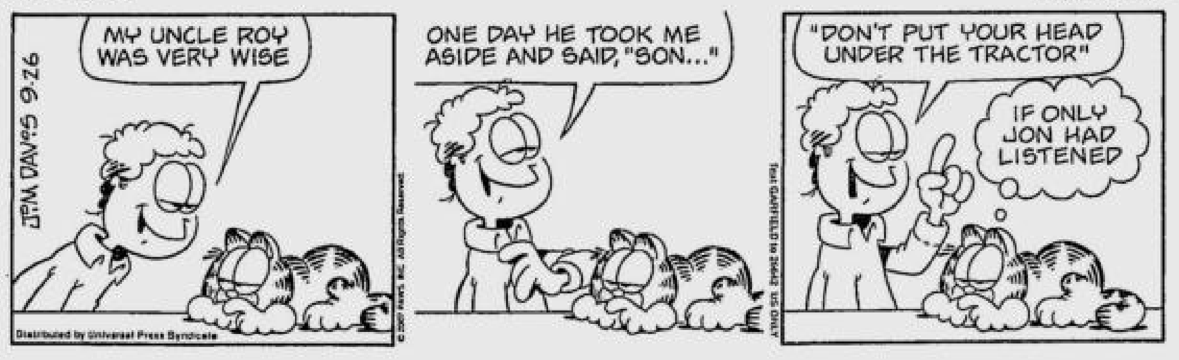
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS
KASO NAPANSIN NUNG TULDOK NA AN'LAYO 'ATA N'YA SA MGA NASASAGAP N'YA... AYAW NYA SA PEDESTAL. MALUNGKOT.
KAYA SINUBUKAN N'YA LUMAPIT...
LUMAPIT...
AT WOW! NAPANSIN N'YA MAS LUMALAWAK S'YA...
HANGGANG NAGING BILOG NA S'YA.
TAPOS uhh... 'DI LANG S'YA NASA IISANG PLANE; PAIKUT-IKUTIN MO 'YUNG BILOG NA 'YUN...
TUMPAK! ooh! UNTI-UNTI NANG NABUBUO! LET'S GO! LET'S GO!
HANGGANG MAGING SPHERE!

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


MY UNCLE ROY WAS VERY WISE
JPM DAVPS 9-26
ONE DAY HE TOOK ME ASIDE AND SAID, "SON..."
"DON'T PUT YOUR HEAD UNDER THE TRACTOR"
IF ONLY JON HAD LISTENED
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're dramatic, proud and noble. Others respect you. You're friendly and sociable in a graceful way. In your mid-20s, you become more intense emotionally and with your ambition to become a better person. You will be youthful all your life. Get ready for a fabulous year ahead. Open any door. You are empowered, and the gods are smiling on you!

Birthdate of: Serena Williams, tennis player; Jane Smiley, novelist; Melissa Sue Anderson, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today the Full Moon is in your sign, which promotes tension with partners and close friends. However, you're very convincing when discussing shared property and money issues. (Oh yeah!)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Even though you might feel tension with co-workers today, you're very persuasive when it comes to partnerships and dealing with the general public. People will listen to you today!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Romance could be rocky because of today's Full Moon. However, your ruler, Mercury, is charged with energy by bouncing off fiery Mars. This puts you in control of things.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Domestic tension or tension with bosses or parents could exist today because of the Full Moon. Nevertheless, your ability to talk to children and to pursue recreational delights is excellent!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): In one way, you're all over the map today because of the Full Moon. However, your communication skills with family members are tops! (It's a great day for repairs at home.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might feel some financial stress today because of the Full Moon. Not to worry—your sales pitch is fantastic. You can sell ice to the Eskimos today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You will feel some tension when dealing with others today, because today's Full Moon opposes your sign. However, your financial moxie is strong. You're in fine business form.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your communication style is hot today! You're very persuasive when talking to others. You say what you mean and mean what you say!

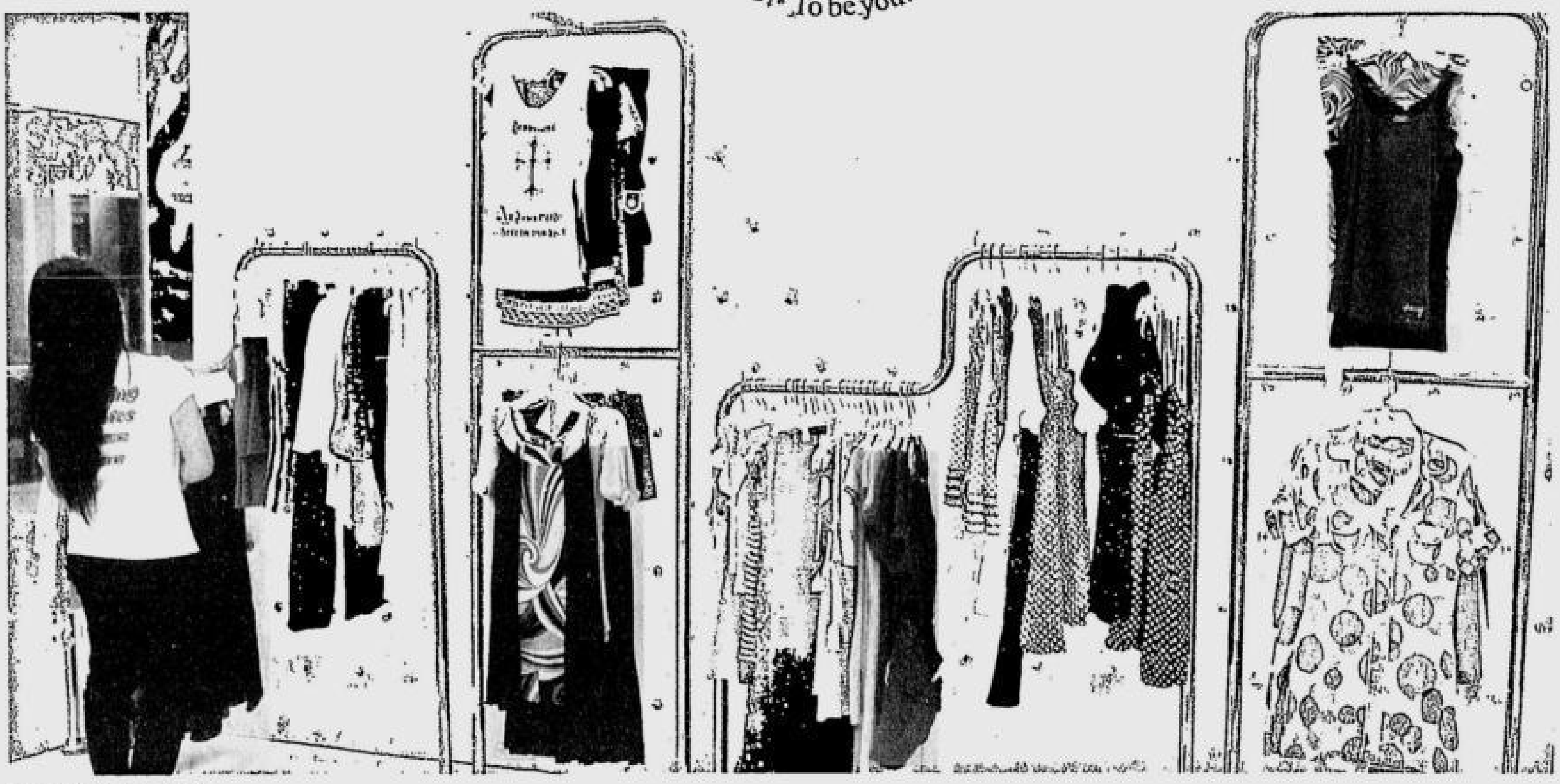
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Perhaps motivated by responsibilities for children or your role in a group, you will do some excellent research into something today. You'll find answers to old problems.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're enormously convincing and persuasive with others today. Despite today's Full Moon, you can sell, market, teach and promote your ideas to others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Parents, VIPs and bosses are very impressed with you today. You express yourself forcefully and with confidence. (This always makes people sit up and listen.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a wonderful day to study anything or travel somewhere to broaden your horizons. You're eager to learn more about the world, especially in a philosophical, political or religious way.

FREEWAY has found a new home at SM The Block.



RAIDING the racks

SHOP SHOOTERS

Feminine and flirty

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Rudy Esperas

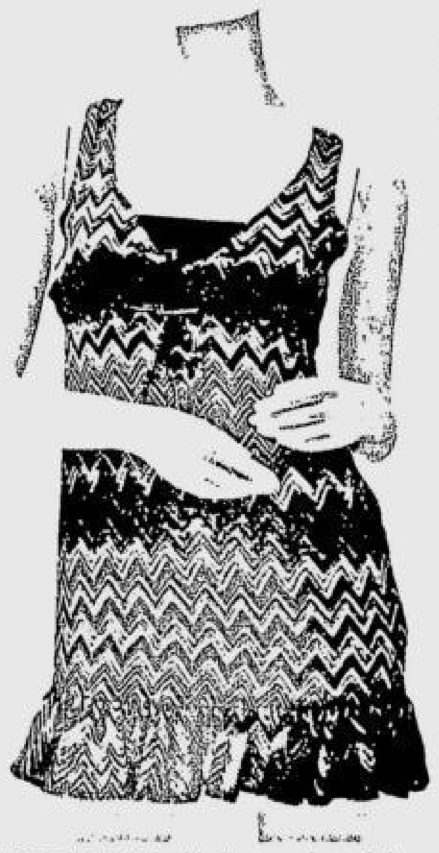
Freeway's new collection is colorful, fun and flattering

ASIDE FROM DISCOVERING new fashion haunts, the Shop Shooters drop by our favorite stores from time to time to check out updates and the new things they have to offer.

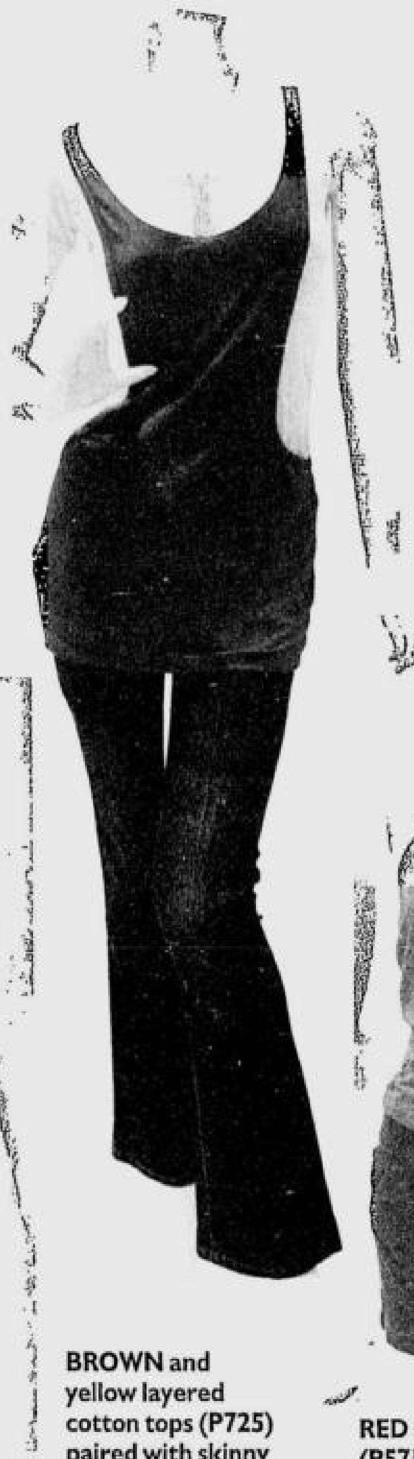
A visit to Freeway's SM The Block branch was a colorful experience. Owner Sheree Gotuaco told us about their new collection. "Our new clothes are quite colorful in base and prints with lots of tents and mini-dresses to match with skinny bottoms like leggings or cigarette denims. They're fun and flattering!"

Like giant dolls, we dressed their mannequins in pieces from their racks. Here are our picks.

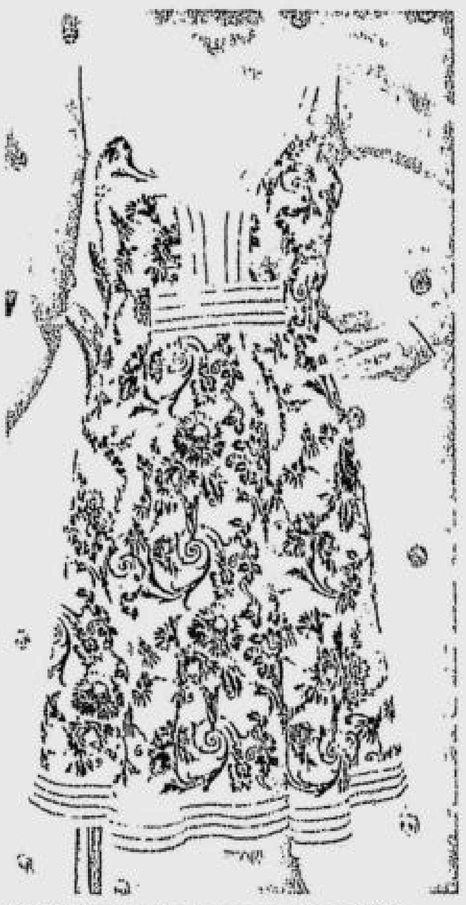
Freeway has branches in your favorite malls nationwide.



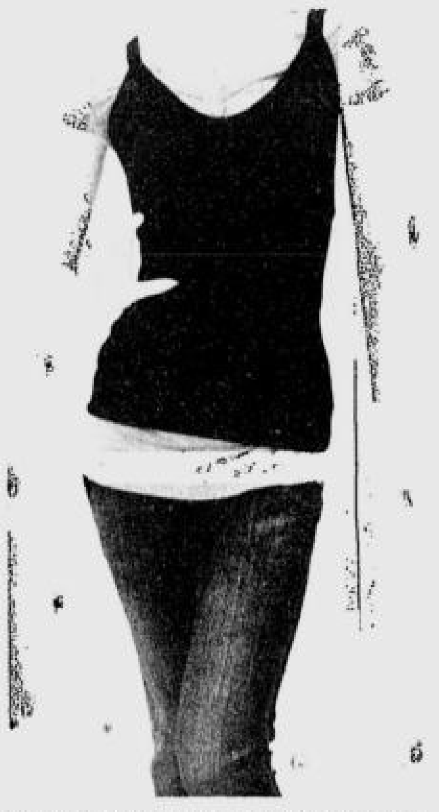
MULTICOLORED bold zigzag print mini dress (P975) over a black bandeau (P215)



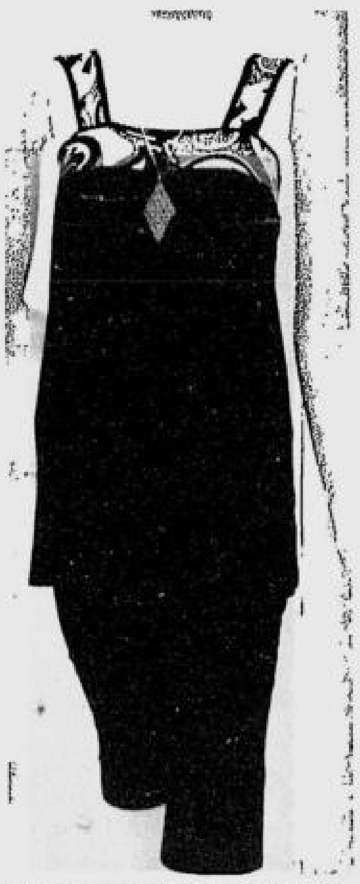
BROWN and yellow layered cotton tops (P725) paired with skinny denim jeans (P1,295) and a rhinestone-studded necklace (P465)



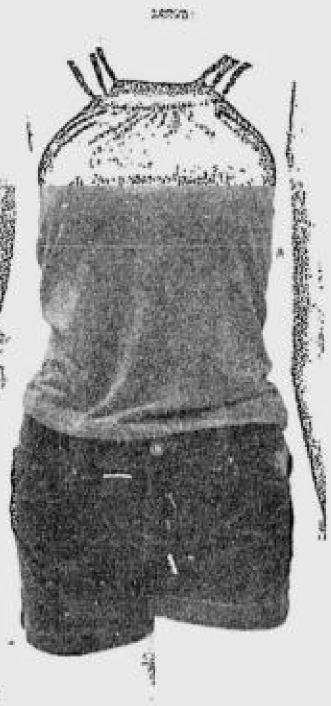
TOILE print black-cream dress with black topstitching details at neckline and waist (P995)



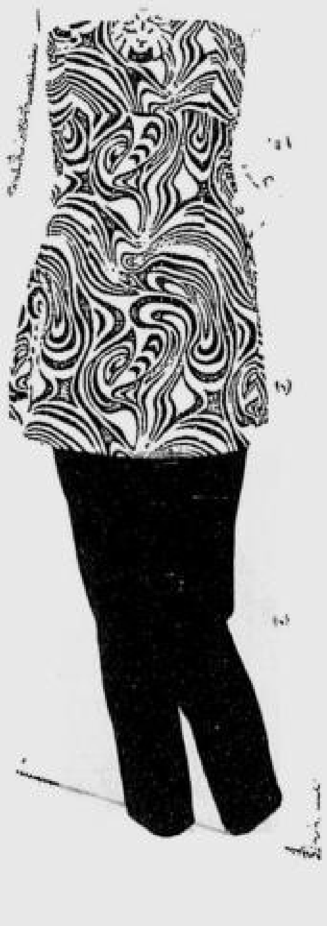
BLACK cotton knit halter top (P345), mustard V-neck capsleeve tunic tee (P475), and skinny denim jeans (P1,345)



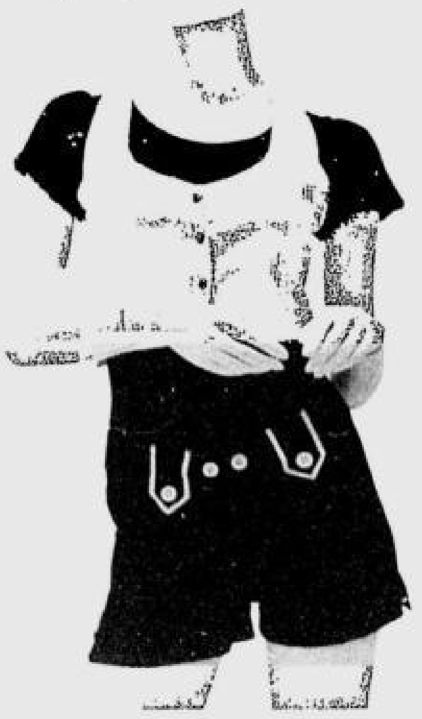
GRAY panel mini-dress (P895) and black leggings (P525)



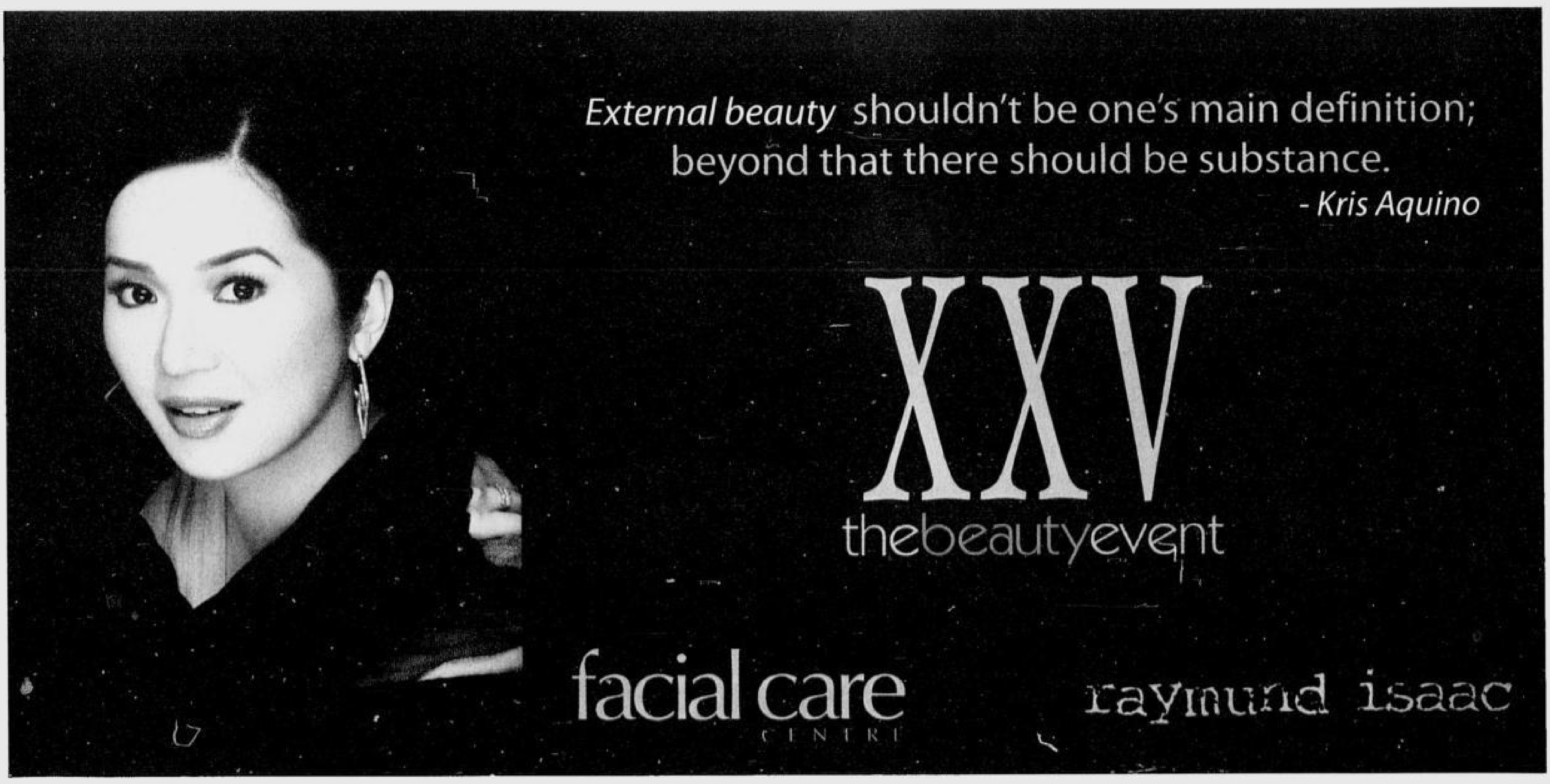
RED strappy halter top (P575) with suede trim mini shorts (P595)

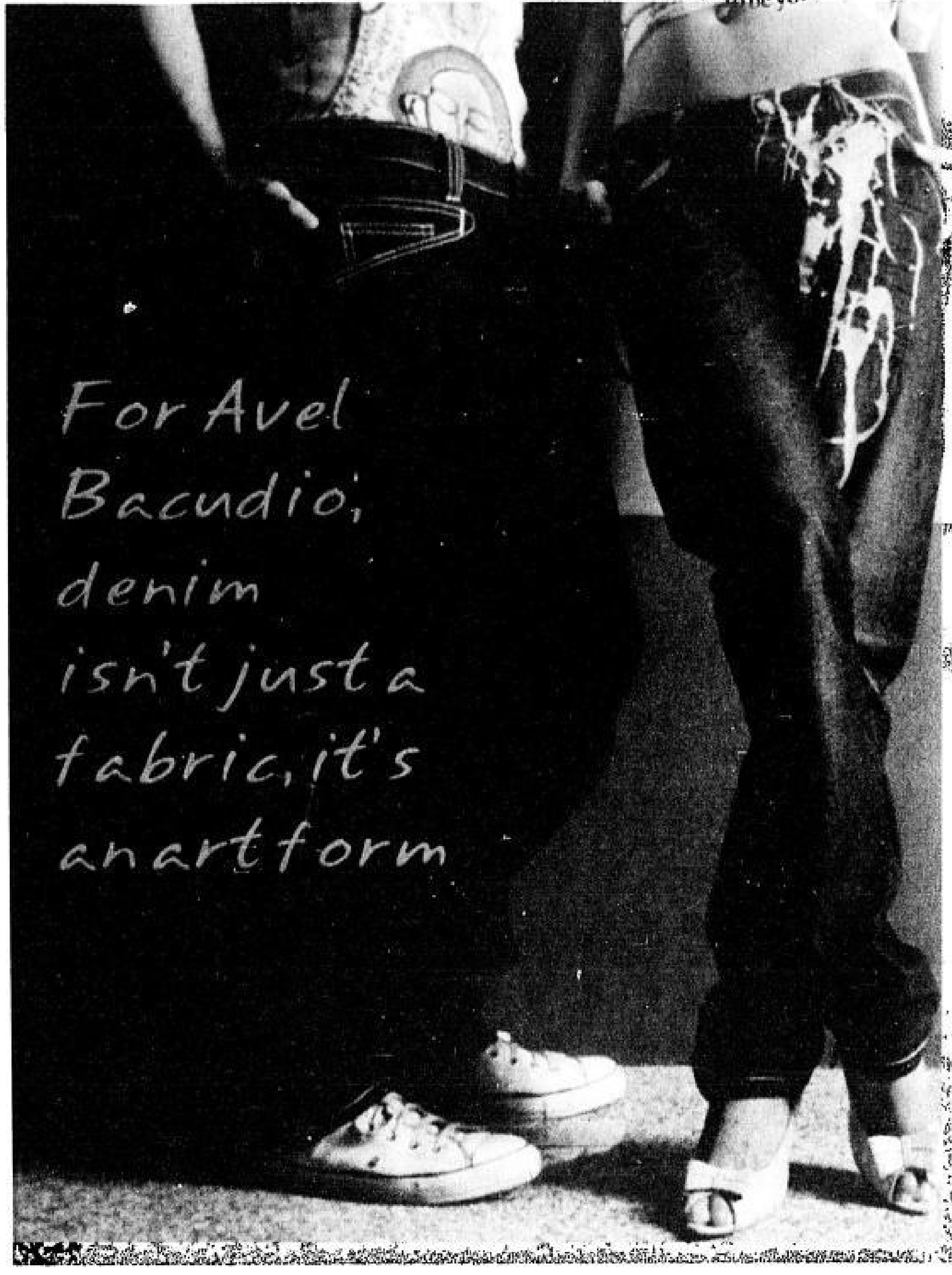


BOLD print purple and white strapless tunic top (P825) and black skinny pants (P1,195)



SHORT sleeve black tee with bubble sleeve detail (P625), jacquard off-white cropped vest (P845), and shorts with contrast piping pocket trim (P845)


External beauty shouldn't be one's main definition; beyond that there should be substance.
- Kris Aquino
XXV
thebeautyevent
facial care
CENTRE
raymund isaac



For Avel Bacudio, denim isn't just a fabric, it's an art form

Dreaming in denim

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Jill Lejano
Styling by Ram De Vera

DENIM IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S great equalizers.

It doesn't matter if you're young or old, it doesn't matter what you do and how much you make doing it, the pair of jeans hanging in your closet is one of the things that make you just like the rest of us.

So when designer Avel Bacudio finally turned his dreams of coming up with his own denim line into reality, he made sure he covered all markets.

First, there's the denim line which he will be launching through Boardwalk. Avel is the direct-selling company's fashion consultant and head designer, and when it offered him the chance to design his own line of jeans, he grabbed it.

"This has been a long-time dream," says Bacudio.

Avel Jeans for Boardwalk will be unveiled on Oct. 7 at the Sofitel.

Bacudio, who studied denim construction in Los Angeles, says of his denim designs, "They're Japanese-inspired. The pairs may be basic but the cuts are experimental. They will be lightweight. The fit is very comfortable and the denim is soft. I use good quality denim."

The jeans are affordable, as no pair will be sold for over P1,000.

But this ready-to-wear line is just half of it.

Bacudio will also be offering customized pairs through his own shop—made-to-order jeans that will fit his clients perfectly.

"They will be more expensive but they will be very exclusive. I will only be making a limited number."

Sneak peek

The designer speaks of his jeans with passion. Clearly, to him, denim is not just a fabric, it's an art form. Bacudio gave 2bU! a sneak peek at his collection.

Inspired by his zeal for turning denim into his own fashionable canvas, we managed to turn our photo shoot into a celebration of fashion as art.

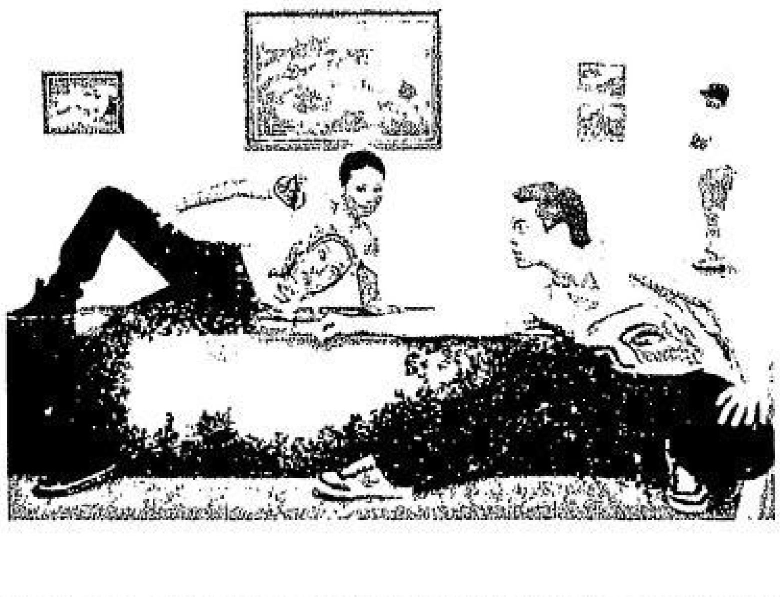
Artist Angelo Magno transformed plain shirts provided by SM into colorful masterpieces. Stylist Ram De Vera wielded his scissors and made the shirts even more unique with his creative cutting.

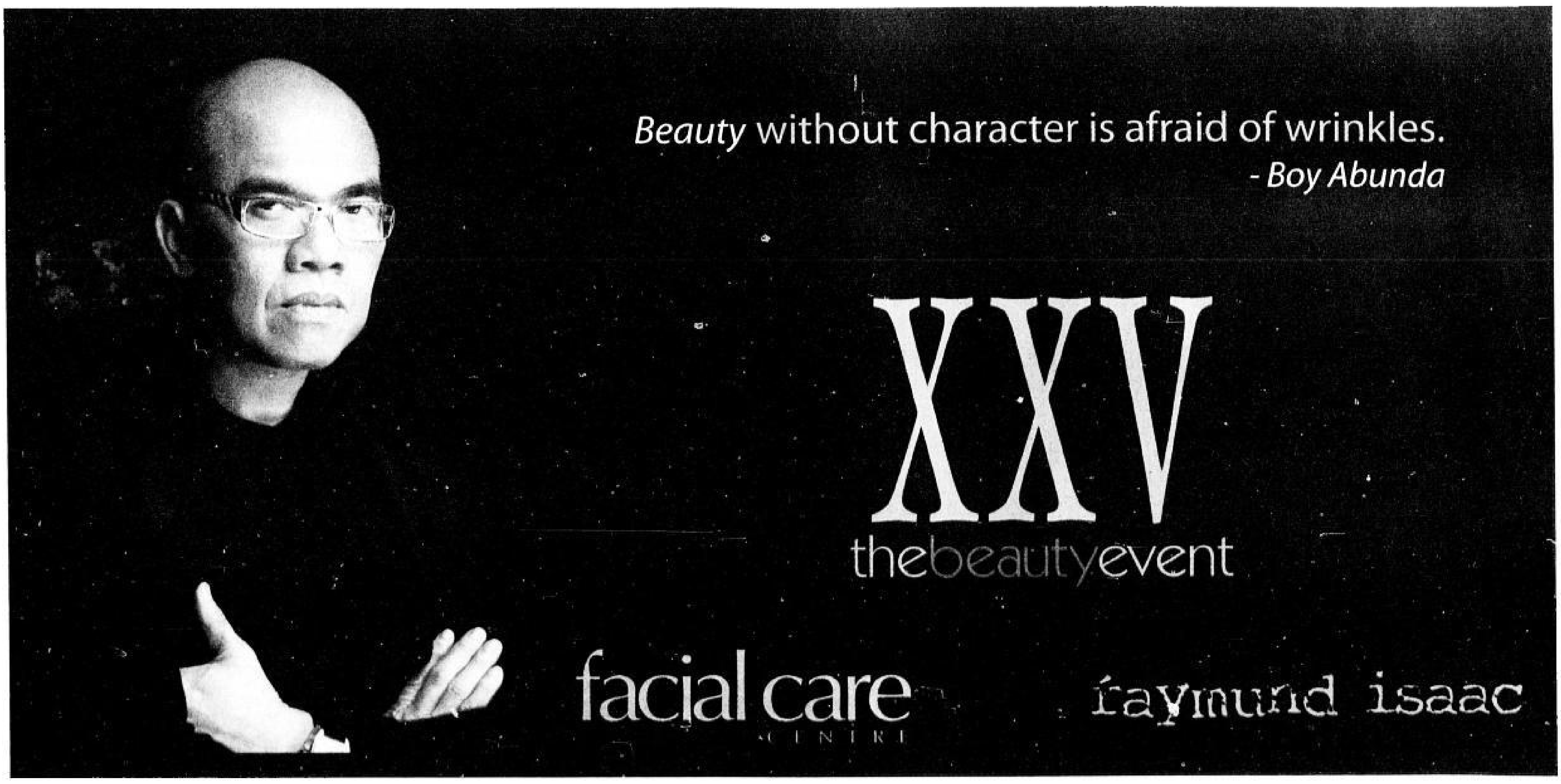
We spent hours at the Ayala Museum, leaving not just with photos but with the realization that while there's art that you hang on walls, there's also art that you can wear.

Avel Jeans for Boardwalk will be available through BoardWalk dealers and stores nationwide. For Bacudio's custom-made denims, call 4350578.

JEAN GENES. Avel Bacudio's denim collection promises comfort and style.

MODELS: CHEN NICOLAS AND JEREMY SEBASTIAN, PATRICK JAMORA AND MICHELLE PAGUIA, GWEN ALBARRACIN AND FRANCIS TREÑAS
HAIR BY PAULO LOPEZ
MAKEUP BY TATIN YANG FOR LANCOME PARIS AND TINA VILLEGAS AND LAILA HERNANDEZ OF SHU UEMURA
SHIRT ART BY ANGELO MAGNO
SHIRTS PROVIDED BY SM
ART SUPPLIES PROVIDED BY NATIONAL BOOKSTORE
LOCATION: AYALA MUSEUM





Beauty without character is afraid of wrinkles.
- Boy Abunda

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THE ROCK STARS from UP Diliman take centerstage.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Sweet victory

By Ruth L. Navarra

VICTORY IS sweeter after a long drought.

The University of the Philippines Pep Squad knows this more than any other cheering squad in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines.

The fiery squad from Diliman recently became the champions of the 2007 Samsung Cheering Competition, a title it last held five years ago when the University of Santo Tomas Salinggawi Dance Troupe (SDT) ended its three-year reign.

Now, it's UP Pep's turn to return the favor as it dashed SDT's dream of having a six-peat.

CHAMPIONS again, at last!

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

"We were so happy because of the overwhelming support of the whole UP community. After we've performed our routine, we felt like all the sacrifices we made and the injuries we've endured had paid off," said UP Pep co-captain Pio Opinaldo.

With the squad members' "rock and roll" attitude, there was no stopping them from owning the floor as they performed their stunts seamlessly. In the spirit of their "rock" theme, the group got rid of maroon and green pompoms in favor of black ones.

The Squad earned a final score of 92.66, followed very closely by SDT with 92.16. The .5 difference showed how stiff and tough the competition was.

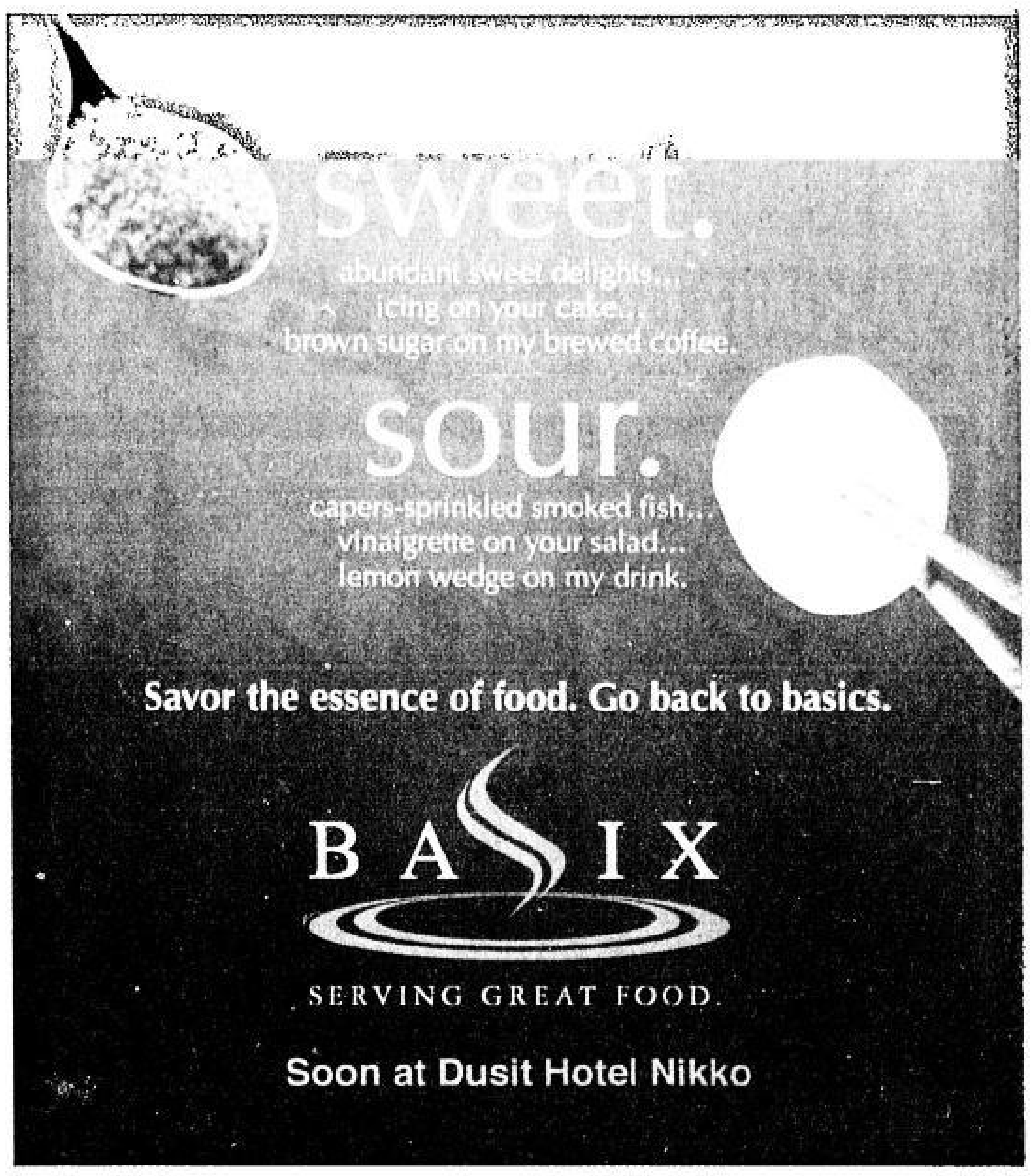
The last time scores were this close was in 2005, with UST winning over UP by a hair's breath—a .22 difference.

SDT turned retro with the boys' pompadour hairstyles and the girls' shining blonde wigs. The troupe earned a deduction after a mishap in one of its early pyramids. This marred an otherwise clean performance.

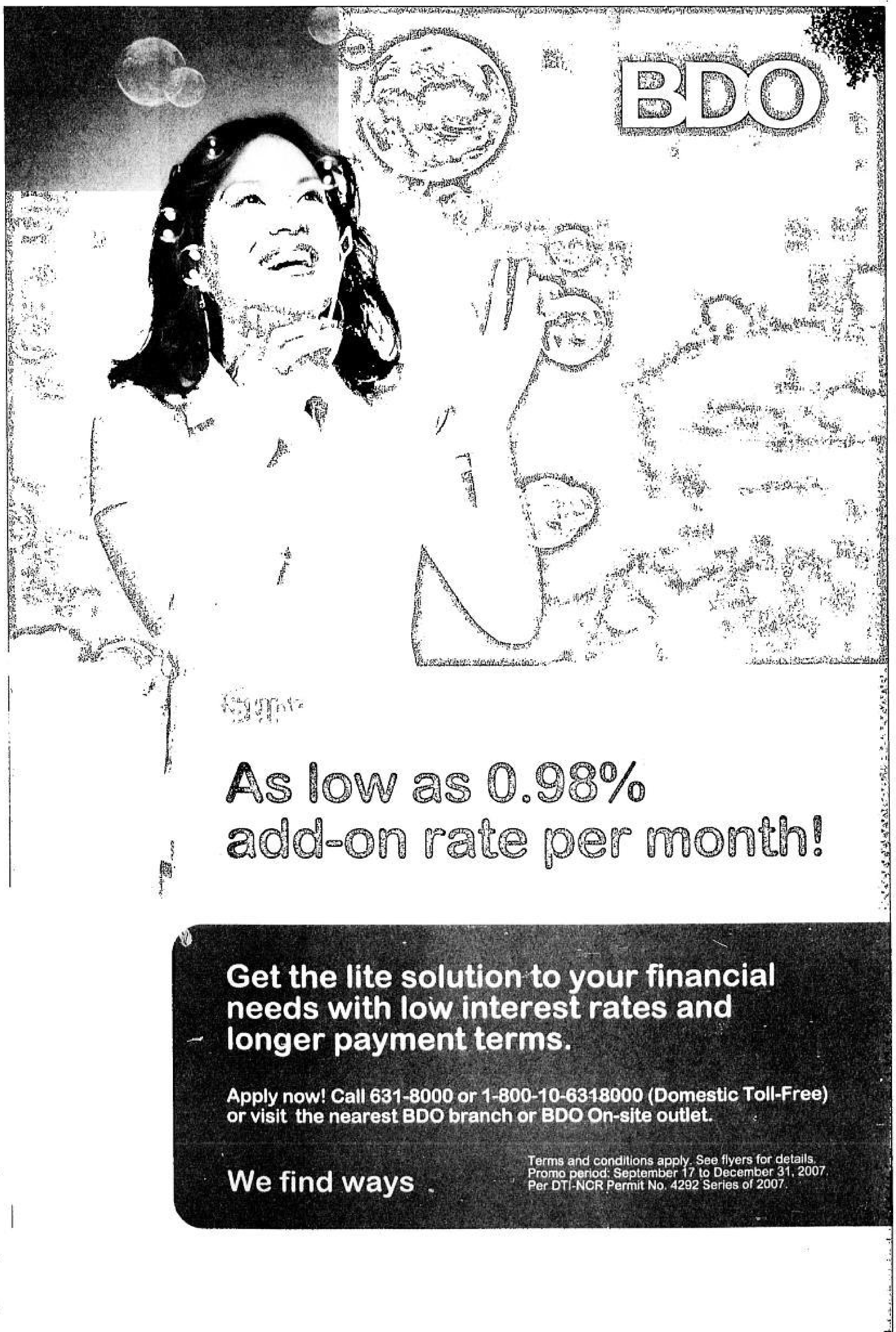
The second runner-up was the crowd-pleasing Far Eastern University Cheering Squad with a 91.6 average. The Morayta-based squad got the most applause from different schools as it entertained the crowd with a "Happy Feet"-themed routine.

The cheerdance competition continues to be one of the most attended UAAP events, with over 15,000 people inside Araneta Coliseum this year. Tickets are usually sold out in a matter of hours, with those originally priced at P120 going as high as P1,500. It's a lucrative business for scalpers.

SWEET/ F2



sweet.
abundant sweet delights...
icing on your cake...
brown sugar on my brewed coffee.
sour.
capers-sprinkled smoked fish...
vinaigrette on your salad...
lemon wedge on my drink.
Savor the essence of food. Go back to basics.
BASIX
SERVING GREAT FOOD.
Soon at Dusit Hotel Nikko



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Promo period Sept 15 to Dec 15, 2007. See posters for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No: 3964 Series of 2007

The fiery University of the Philippines Pep Squad recently became the champions of the 2007 Samsung Cheering Competition, a title it last held five years ago

THE SALINGGAWI Dance Troupe, proud and unbowed even at second place

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Sweet victory

From page F1

Worthwhile show

But for the die-hards, the show is always worth it. Though the title seems to have been a toss-up only between UP and UST for the past nine years, squads from other schools are improving each year.

The Ateneo de Manila University Blue Babble Battalion is showing much promise, judging by the perfect routine it presented had. The Adamson Pep Squad, meanwhile, continues to awe the audience with its "hardcore" stunts. This year, it created a variation of its trademark carousel toss.

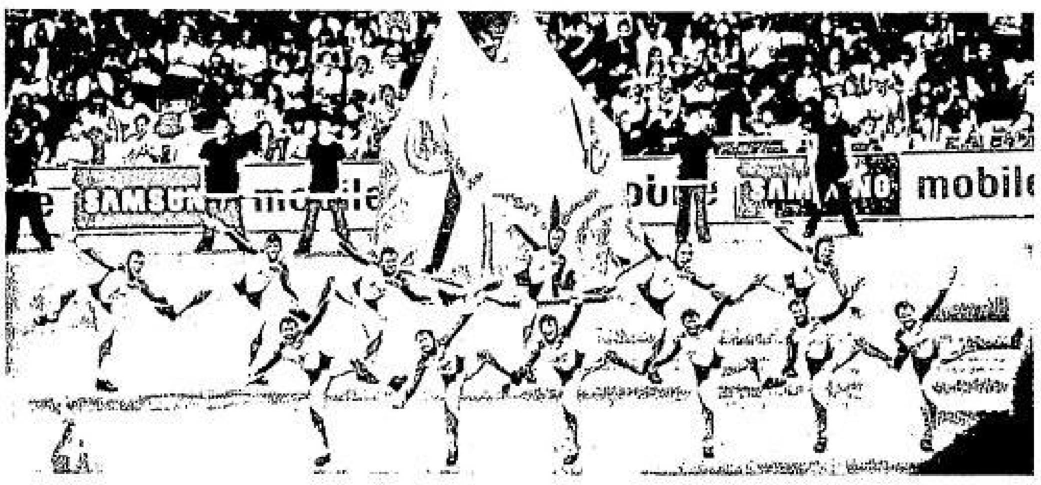
The University of the East Cheering Squad also showed a much stronger and more improved routine. The De La Salle University Cheering Squad, on the other hand, injected something new with the boys shaking their booties alongside the girls. It was fun watching them dance in afro wigs in sync with the "Papaya" song. But the group needs to have stronger nerves next year, as the members' performance faltered after the flashboard disaster, when they misspelled "La Salle."

A proud National University Pep Squad came out and performed with as much bravado as the 17-member squad could muster.

An additional performance was added this year with the Samsung dancers opening the event in cheerleading uniforms. All schools also had Samsung logo patches in the uniforms.

This year's competition ended with the UP Pep Squad victorious. Are the UP cheerleaders going to start their own winning streak, will SDT bounce back after a loss, or will another team rise up and take the limelight from the two rivals?

We'll find out next year!



FAR Eastern University Cheering Squad

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Pacquiao: the mark and the glory

NIKE PHILIPPINES officially unveiled today the Nike-Manny Pacquiao identity mark and crest in support of the national athlete's fight against Mexico's Marco Antonio Barrera this coming October.

"Manny Pacquiao is the first Filipino athlete to ever have an official Nike identity mark and crest developed after his iconic stature," explained Nike Philippines country marketing manager Melissa Crucillo.

"Pacquiao is the embodiment of the Philippine dream. When he steps on the ring, he does not only defend his title as a boxer. He also brings with him the aspirations of the entire nation. Nike understands this and is honored to support Manny with this specially designed identity mark and crest, which every Filipino can use to show their support for our national athlete," Crucillo added.

The Manny Pacquiao identity mark bears the boxer's initials designed with the rising sun inspired by the National Flag.

The Pacquiao crest recognizes Pacquiao's stature as a national athlete. Inspired by his life, it evokes the Filipino Coat of Arms. The tattoo-style waves on top account for all of Pacquiao's 44 wins, and the Filipino flag is represented by the rising sun. Fists in arms represent the nationalistic following of Pacquiao, with a left-handed gloved fist in the center depicting the strength of Manny's southpaw.

It rises above a bare fist to show Pacquiao's iconic stature among Filipino boxers. It has three stars that represent the three major island groups, with the biggest star symbolizing Mindanao, Pacquiao's birthplace.

Other elements include the Philippine eagle at the center, *sampaguita* blooms on the side, and banana leaves adorning lower half.

The Nike-Manny Pacquiao relationship is a synergy of two icons bound by a common passion for sports.

"This is the second year of Nike's support for the world's No. 1 pound-for-pound boxer Manny Pacquiao, who embodies Nike's 'just-do-it' spirit. The identity and crest are testaments to our commitment to support local sporting heroes whose athleticism is truly world-class," Crucillo said.

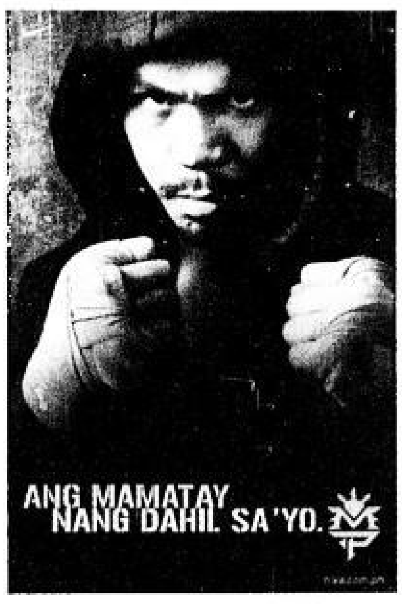
"More than these, of course, come Nike's usual support in the form of technologically advanced training products like the Nike Pro, Nike Free Gym Plus, Nike Free 7.0 and Nike Zoom Trainer Guard trainers to help Pacquiao enhance his performance in preparation for 2007's biggest fight."

The Manny Pacquiao identity and crest, developed by Nike headquarters in Oregon, will be first worn by the boxer in October as he steps on the boxing ring against Barrera.

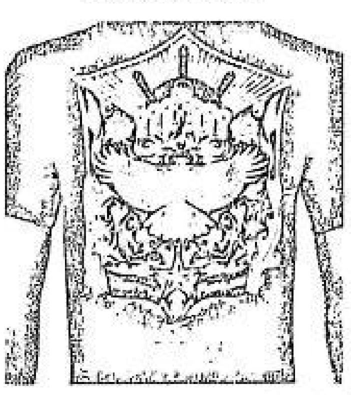
These designs will be made available to the public through a limited-edition Nike FIT Dri T-shirt that can be purchased at Nike stores at P895.

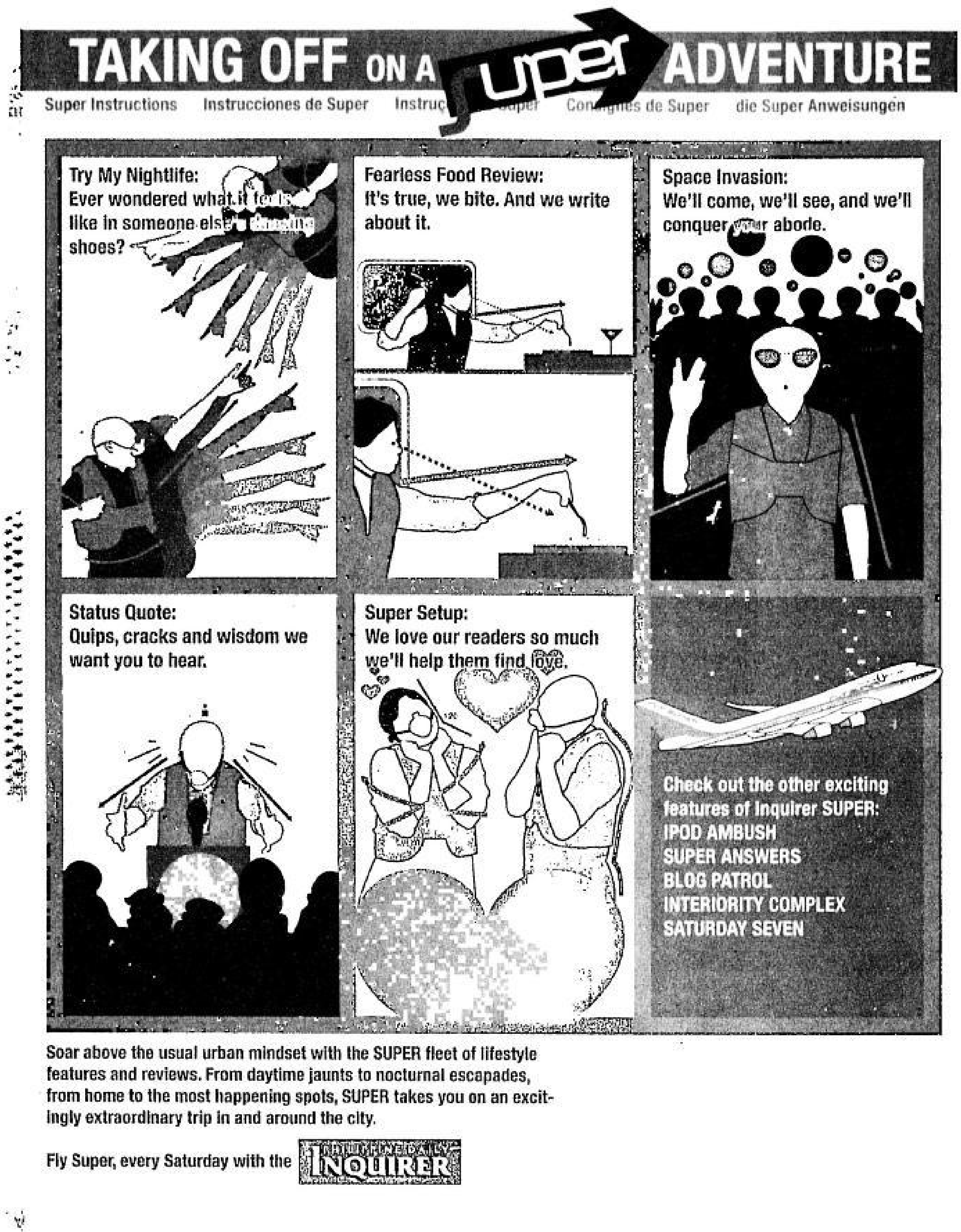
A nationwide advertising campaign will also be launched by Nike Philippines to rally the nation behind Pacquiao.

Visit www.nike.com.ph


ANG MAMATAY NANG DAHIL SA 'YO.

YOUTH INSPIRATION. Manny Pacquiao

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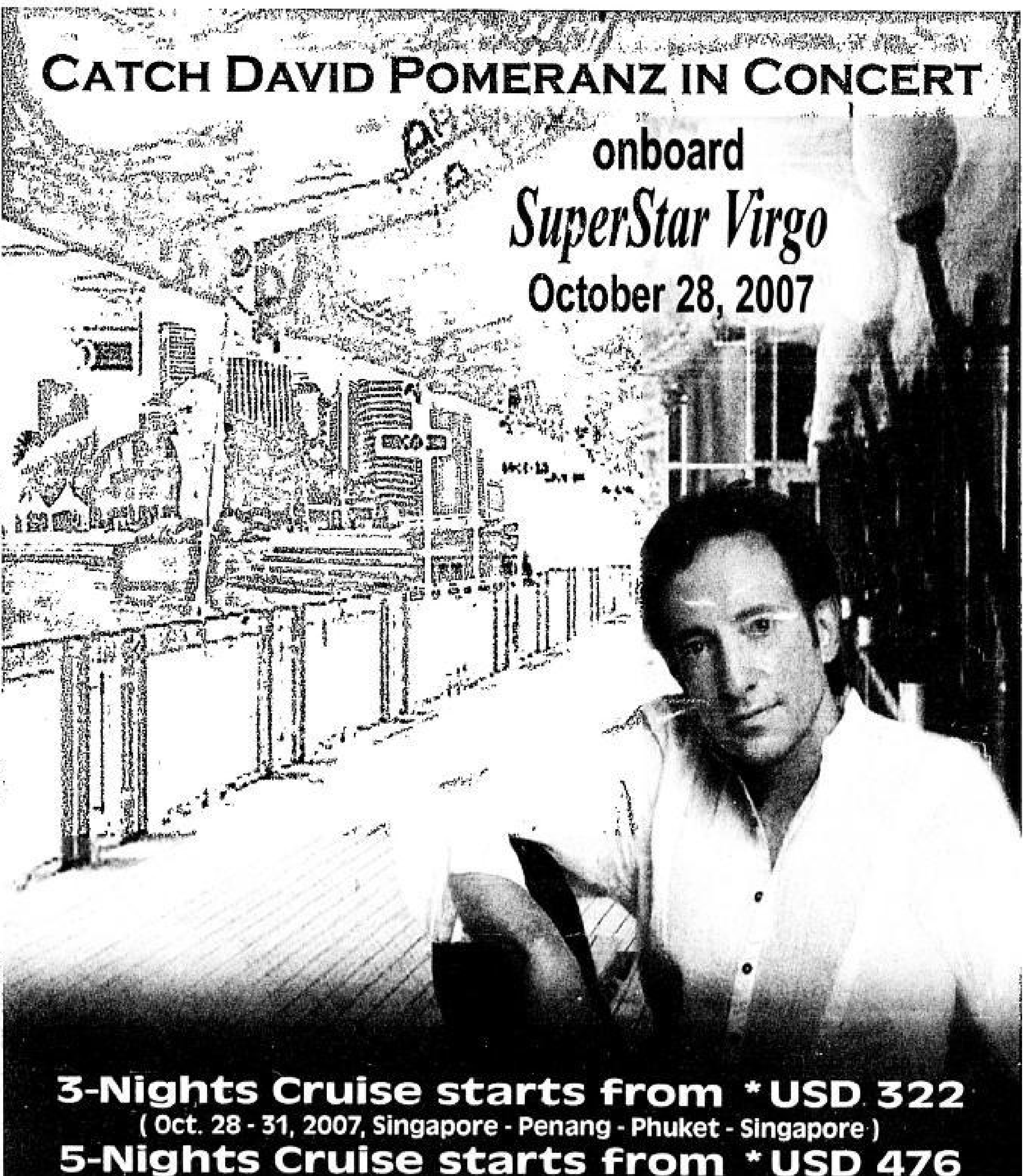
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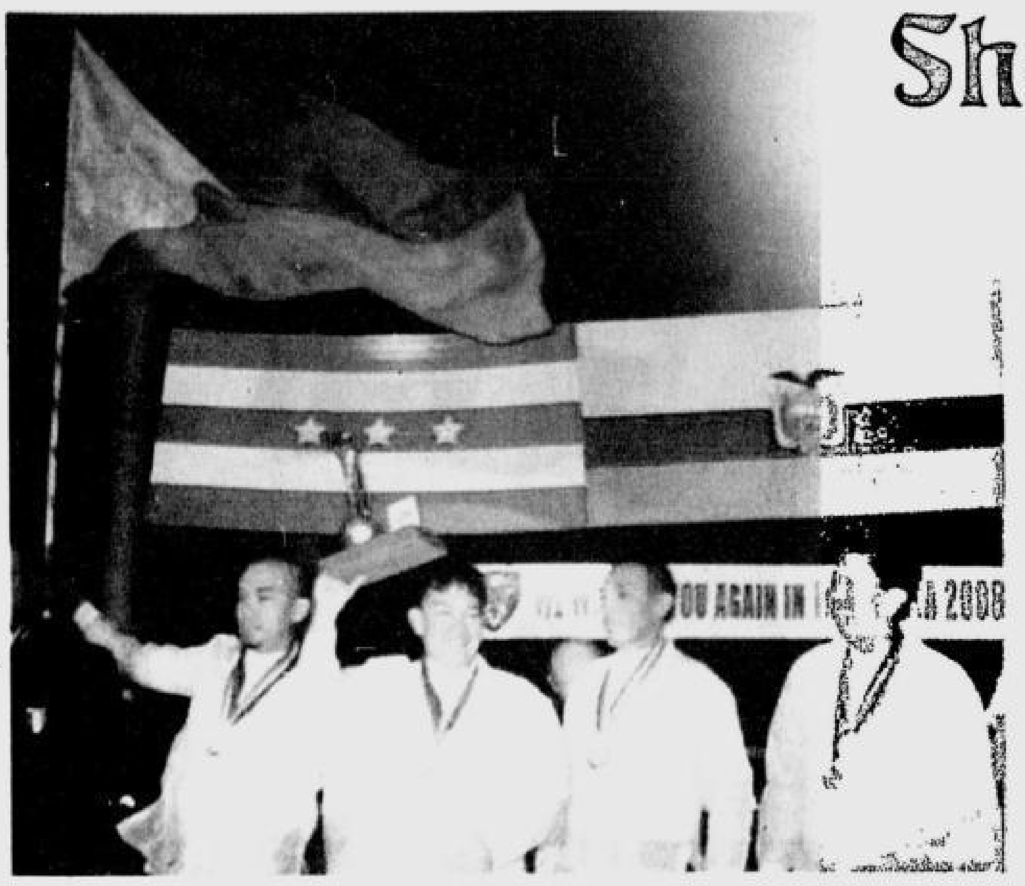
Shooting for glory in Pattaya

Pinoy marksmen will defend their Australasian Crown in Thailand



PHILIPPINE Team Modified Division World champions Jeufro Lejano, Joseph Sy, Lyndon Biraogo and Nelson Uygongco in the 2005 World Shoot in Ecuador

SET AGAINST A BACKDROP OF THE PRIStine waters and untainted beaches, the International Practical Shooting Confederation's 2007 Australasia Practical Shooting Championships will be held in the resort town of Pattaya, located some 120 km south of Bangkok, from Dec. 2-9.

This Level IV, 24-stage handgun match will be hosted by the Thailand Practical Shooting Association, and shall be a precursor to World Shoot XV to be held in Bali, Indonesia in 2008.

Some 800 practical shooters coming from 70 countries are expected to compete in Pattaya. They include the frontrunners of the Philippine team qualifiers such as Jag Lejano of Team PB Dionisio in the Open Division (he is also the defending World Champion in the Modified Division); Nelson Ungongco of Iloilo in the Standard Division; Emil Jason Jardaleza (also from Iloilo) in the Production Division; and Christopher Panganiban of Club 1911 in the Modified Division. The four shooters are leading the first two Team Philippines qualifying matches, the Secretary Jun Ebdane Cup in Clarkfield, Pampanga and the SAPRA 2007 National Qualifying Match in Iligan City.

The remaining qualifying matches for the Philippine Team aspirants will be the Cong. Bongbong Marcos Cup in Ilocos Norte on Nov. 22-25; PPSA Nationals in Iloilo City on Jan. 14-19, 2008; and NROI Nationals in Cebu City on Feb. 27-March 2. These matches are sanctioned by the Philippine Practical Shooting Association and the International Practical Shooting Confederation.

Team Pilipinas 2005 are the defending World Team Champions in the Modified Division. Individual Filipino champions during the previous Worldshoot held in Guayaquil, Ecuador were Jag Lejano in the Modified Division; Danny Torrevillas in the Senior Production Category; and Nelson Uygoncgco in the Modified Division Shoot Off match.

Panasonic ideas for life

40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
Art of life
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Some of the county's most prominent professional photographers attend Panasonic's photo contest launch. In photo are Wig Tysmans, George Tapan, Mandy Navasero and Raffy Paredes (representing Jim Paredes) together with Panasonic Executives Rene Almeda, Hiroyuki Iwaki and Ellen Suarez.

Deadline for Panasonic's *"The Art of Life"* photo contest extended!

Panasonic, one of the country's premier brands in the appliance and electronics industry, extends its target for the "The Art of Life by Panasonic" photo contest up to October 05, 2007, providing more chances for amateur and professional photographers to showcase their photography repertoire.

Panasonic hopes to highlight photographic excellence that is distinctly Pinoy as the creative flair of many Filipinos behind the lens will be put to the test.

Explore and tinker on motion, colors and angles vis-à-vis life's greatest wonders like travel, music, fashion, sports, careers, family-oriented concepts and other daily occurrences in the urban and rural settings, highlighting the "art of life" present in both the traditional and modern ways of living.

After "The Art of Life by Panasonic" finalists are chosen, they will continue their artistic quest through a depiction of "Panasonic in the life of the consumers" by going to the nearest Panasonic dealers and portray Panasonic's contribution to the Filipino way of life.

As the art in innovation is set in focus, Panasonic takes another milestone of modern technology for the society's continuous development.

Only one entry per photographer is allowed. Any type or brand of camera can be used in the contest. Each entry should be both in an unmounted printed sample sizes placed in flat packages or mailing tubes and in digital files in CD format. Place your name, address and contact numbers on the back of the envelope for your submitted entries.

Entries will be judged according to creativity, relevance to theme, quality of presentation and visual impact. First prize winner will receive P50,000, second prize winner P30,000 and the third prize winner P15,000. The top three winners will also receive their own Panasonic camera each.

Interested individuals may send their entries to Full Circle Communications at 15/F Belvedere Tower, San Miguel Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Panasonic
Digital Photography Contest

RULES AND MECHANICS:

1. **Eligibility.** All photographers ages 18 and above are eligible. Only one entry per photographer is allowed.

2. **Camera Brand.** Any type or brands of cameras are allowed to be used for the contest.

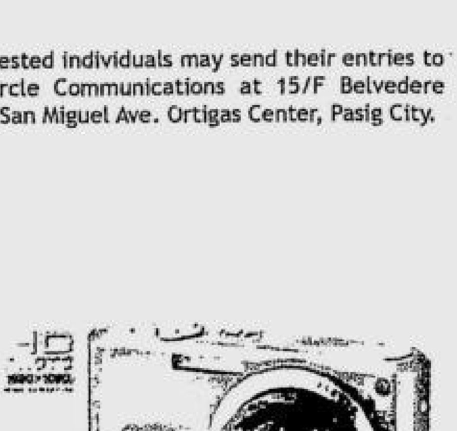
3. **Submission of Entries:**
   a. Entries should be submitted in unmounted printed sample (size).
   b. Digital files: RGB (not CMYK), JPG format with a maximum width of 1024 pixels and a maximum height of 768 pixels (72 dpi) . Digital files will be projected for the judges.
   c. Entries that are unmounted should be in flat packages or mailing tubes. Digital files must be in CD format.
   d. Strictly no Photoshop (or any other software) manipulation for the submitted entries.
   e. Each entry should have a one-sentence explanation for their captured images along with the appropriate title.
   f. Deadline for submission of entries will be on September 30, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. adddressed to Full Circle Communications, Inc. at the 15th Floor, Belvedere Tower, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

4. **Criteria for Judging:**

a. Creativity - 30%	The amount of imagination, artistic merit, originality and expressiveness of the photo.
b. Relevance to theme - 25%	How well does the entry achieve its client's mission. How does it exactly convey the message of the contest ?
c. Quality of Presentation - 20%	The amount of style, skill and craft that was put into the entry.
d. Visual Impact - 25%	How well does the entry communicate ?

5. **Prizes :** (Participants can only win once)
   Major Prizes : 1st Prize : Php 50,000 + a Panasonic Camera
   2nd Prize : Php 30,000 + a Panasonic Camera
   3rd Prize : Php 15,000 + a Panasonic Camera
   Finalists : Panasonic Certificates and Gift Bags.

6. **Contest Promo.** School tours will be conducted to promote " The Art of Life by Panasonic " photography contest.
7. **Decision.** Judges' decision is final.
8. **Disqualification.** Employees of Panasonic Philippines, its advertising and public relations agencies, including their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the contest.
9. **Announcement of Winners.** Winning entries shall be announced on October 15, 2007.



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LUMIX

Surf's up!

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

BEACHES WITH POWDER-white sands, amazingly clean and clear waters perfect for scuba-diving, plus a wide variety of marine life accessible through snorkeling. These are just some of the reasons why many tourists plane to the Philippines.

Now get ready to add surfing to the list of reasons.

And why not? Our vibrant resort climate is perfect. We've got a coastline twice as long as that of the United States. And at least a dozen new spectacular breaks can be discovered every season.

Still not convinced? Maybe the recently launched campaign called Onboard Philippines will do the trick.

Onboard Philippines seeks to make the Philippines a prime surfing destination

ONBOARD Philippines Team

Onboard Philippines is a partnership between the Philippine Department of Tourism and Aloha Board Sports, Inc., a leading surfing advocate led by athlete/entrepreneur Freddy Gonzales. Backed up by honorary team member, Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, the group also has the support of half-Filipino and world-renowned free surfer Mikala Jones; local entrepreneur and free surfer Paolo Soler; long-board winner and architect Nikki Dela Paz; Top 30 NSSA circuit and 2003 UCLA surfer Lui Tortuya; first place MSA longboard competition 2007 winner Buji Libarnes; and professional yoga and surf instructor Corey Wills.

The ambitious campaign has set its eye not only on promoting the sport in the country, but in promoting the country as a surfing spot as well.

"In cooperation with the Department of Tourism, Onboard Philippines hopes to grow the local surfing industry, explore the numerous opportunities that it presents for Philippine tourism as well as empower and support the country's growing community of local surfers," explains 29-year-old Freddy.

They plan to travel all over the country and try out the local waves, while also searching for undiscovered waves, and then spreading the word.

It is actually very exciting how given the country's coastline, numerous islands, warm and helpful people plus perfect weather, the Philippines can potentially secure a place in the international tourism map through Surfing Tourism.

Around the world, there are 17-23 million active surfers and they are more than willing to ride the waves of other destinations apart from Australia, Hawaii and California—the holy trinity of surf spots. And although the Philippines doesn't instantly come to mind at the mere mention of surfing, the country's uncrowded waves give the Philippines the potential to one day become another paradise for surfers.

Adventure tourism

According to Freddy, who started surfing during the early '90s, Surfing Tourism has become a significant component of the worldwide adventure tourism sector. "It's growing to become a multi-billion dollar global business that the Philippines can easily be part of," he says.

In the next few months, Freddy and his friends will be clutching their boards to different parts of the country to surf, but this isn't the only thing that they'll be doing. They will also promote other board sports such as skateboarding and skimboarding, which is hugely popular in Leyte, Batangas and Cebu. They will teach the locals about the sport and demonstrate the basics.

And because they are committed to protecting the environment that makes it possible for them to surf, they will perform cleanups and educate the locals on taking care of the environment too.

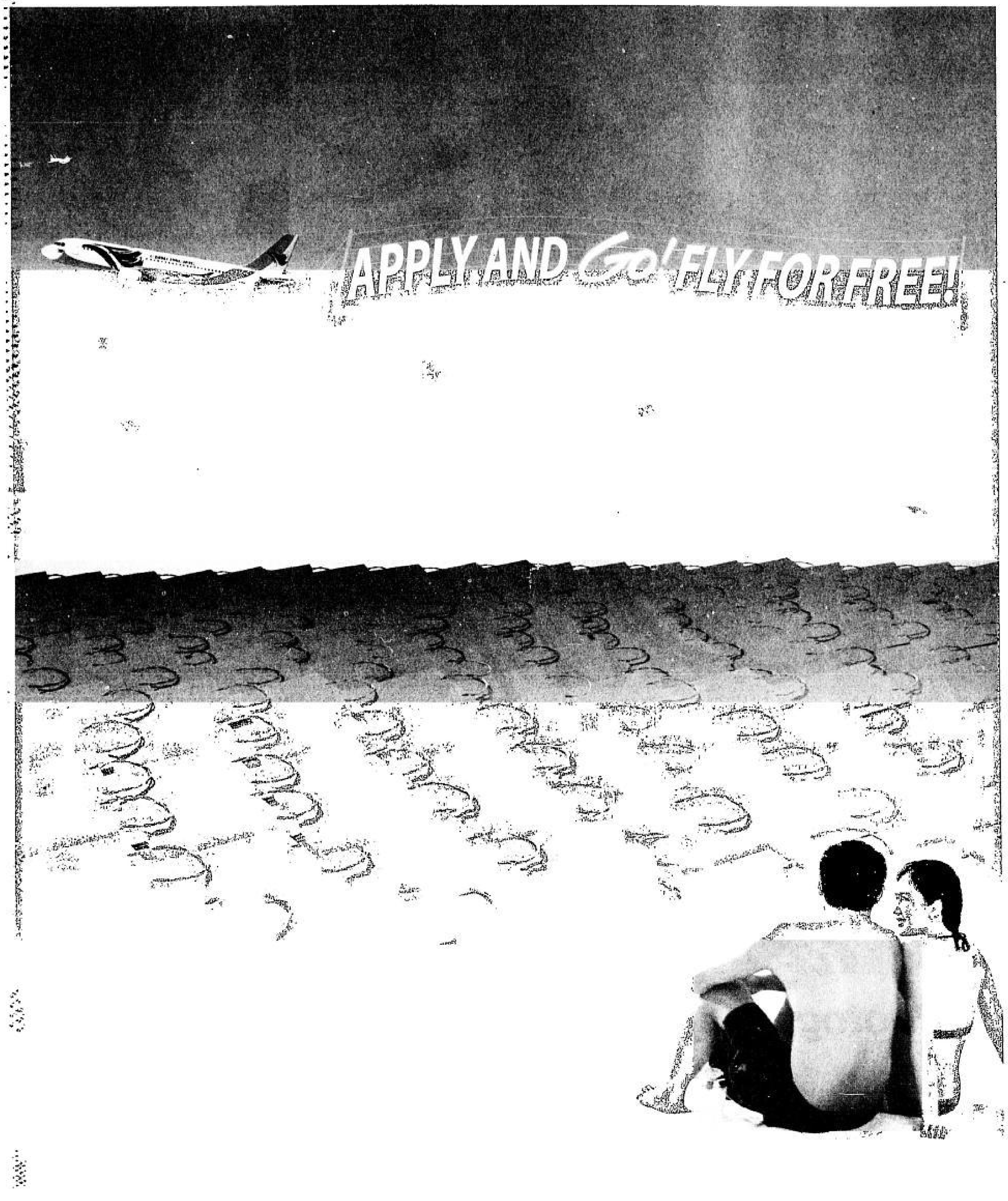
As for promoting the country as the next big surfing destination, Onboard Philippines is confident that apart from our awesome waves, another edge of the Philippines among others is how we have a lot of destinations that lure surfing fans with their monster swells and majestic waves. Popular among both local surfers and tourists who go here specifically for surfing are Badoc Island in Ilocos Norte, Baler in Aurora, Catanduanes, Daet in Camarinas Norte, La Union, Samar, Siargao Island, Vigan in Ilocos Sur and Zambales.

Of course, there are also the secret spots that some surfers selfishly keep to themselves. Surfers, after all, reportedly hate crowds.

But with its extensive traveling, the Onboard Philippines team will surely discover new spots and spread the good news.

E-mail the author at ninomarksablan@yahoo.com

ACCORDING to Onboard Philippines honorary team member and Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, water remains to be the number one draw of the country so he has high hopes for Surfing Tourism.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Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

SHE says the separation made her more confident.

What Pops learned from Martin

By Pocholo Concepcion

FOR POPS FERNANDEZ, SHOW BIZ WAS an escape—a world in which she became another person.

She was a gangling 16-year-old in 1982 when she was thrust into the limelight, a clueless kid who recorded songs, acted in movies and became a TV host because she "liked the attention and the applause."

Twenty-five years later, Pops remembers the crucial moments that led her to this world.

"I was a choir member in grade school at IS (International School). I would always be at the back row because I was one of the tallest. One day, my friends signed me up for a talent program in school that I totally was against. But it made me realize that I loved [being] onstage, with everybody watching and clapping."

Admittedly an introvert, Pops relished the thought of being someone else. "It was not me," she says "I was very quiet [but] when I was on stage, I could sing my heart out. Suddenly, I'm not shy anymore."

It helped that she had the right connections, being the daughter of (the late action star) Eddie Fernandez. Plus, her mom, sometime actress Dulce Lukban, personally charted Pops' career as her manager.

> In a magazine interview, she bared grim details of the breakup; now she has only kind words for him

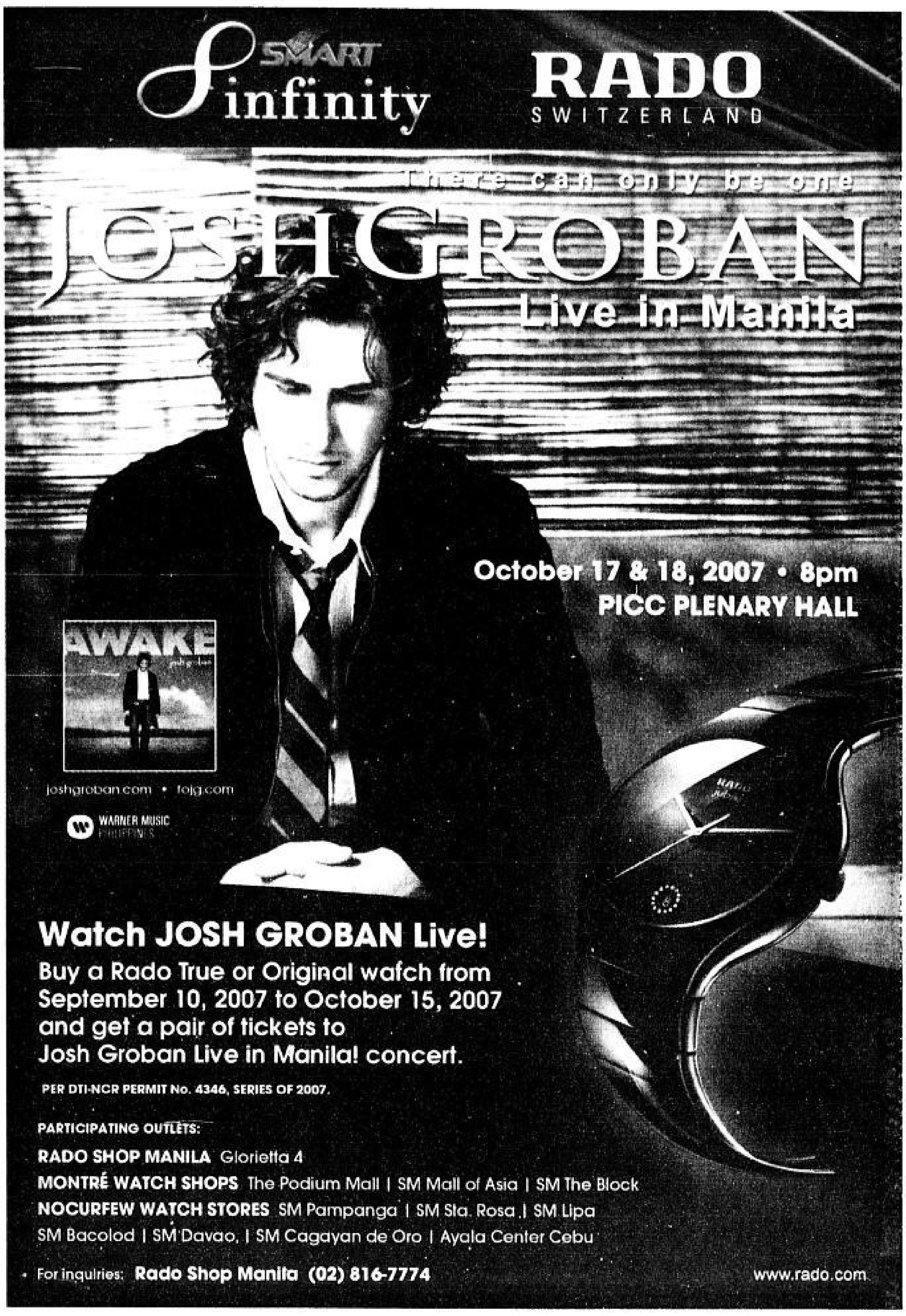
It could even be argued that Pops was largely the product of shrewd marketing strategies and image-making.

However, it was as the other half of a fun and witty TV hosting team that Pops shone brightest. For many years, people watched and applauded as Pops basked in fame alongside Martin Nievera, her co-host in "Penthouse Live," who soon became her real-life partner.

Now separated from Martin but still part of the make-believe world of show biz, Pops says she has grown into someone other than what she thought she would be.

When she met the entertainment media to promote "Diva-licious," her 25th anniversary concert at the Big Dome on Dec. 8, Pops had nothing but kind words for her ex, though she bared grim details of their breakup in a recent magazine interview.

WHAT POPS/ G4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Ligaw Liham

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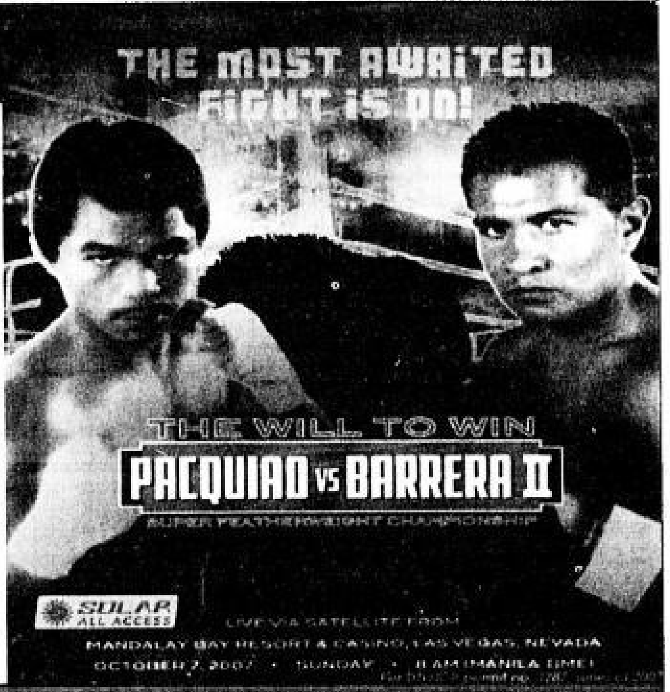

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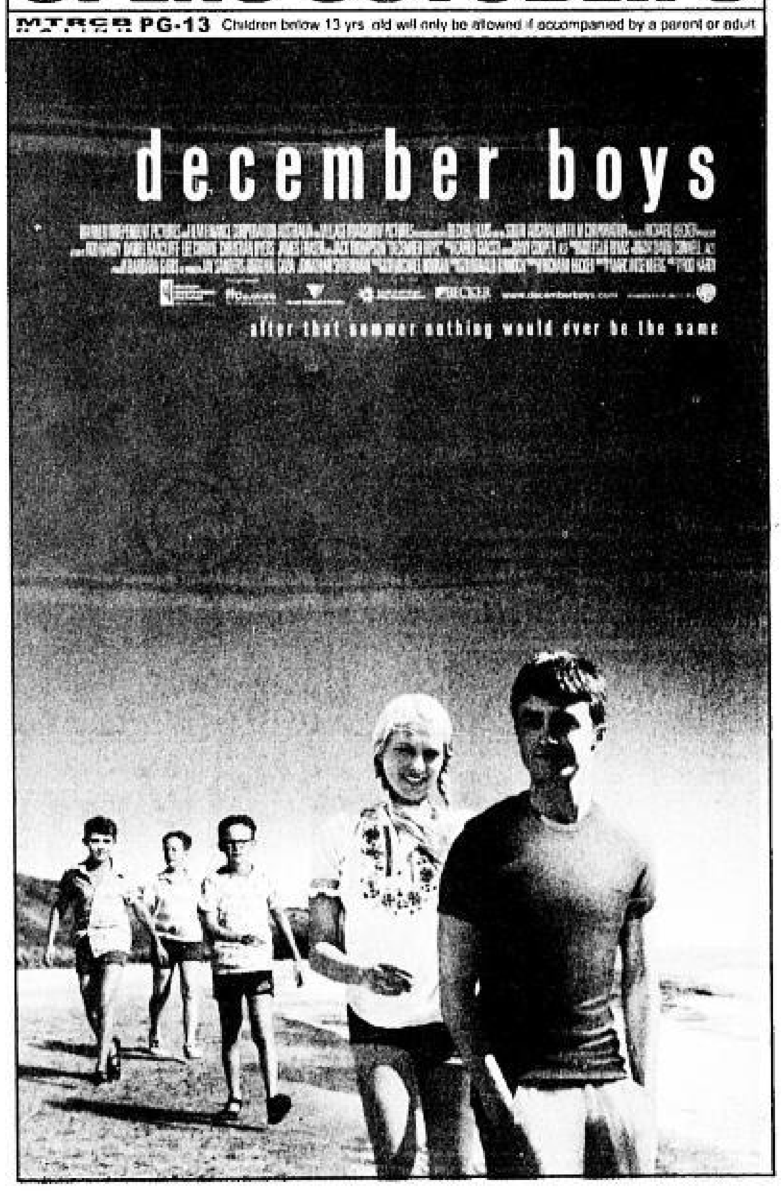
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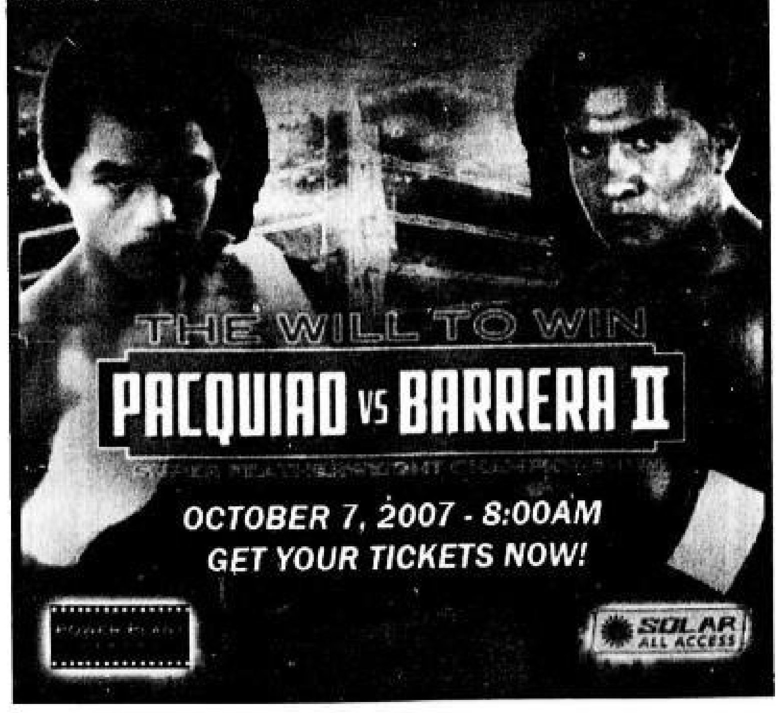

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THE AI finalist's live performance gave the songs a new dimension.
FRAN KATIGBAK

Amazing acoustic treat

By Fran Katigbak

ELLIOT YAMIN'S TAKE ON "Moody's Mood for Love," as a member of the Top 24 on "American Idol" Season 5, is arguably his most memorable performance on the reality talent search.

Yamin proceeded, week after week, to surprise AI judges and viewers with his ability to turn an obscure song into a contemporary, not to mention memorable, piece.

Thenceforth, hearing other versions of the songs Yamin performed on AI made it difficult not to make comparisons, usually in his favor.

Rare treat

But song choice was not the only factor that could push a finalist to AI's Top 3. Reminding the contenders that vocals were just as important, judge Simon Cowell declared Yamin "potentially" the best male vocalist in the history of the show.

Local fans are currently being treated to this unique, soulful voice as Yamin makes the rounds of Ayala Malls nationwide. Fans come in hoards to watch him perform live.

It was probably a stroke of luck that two of his regular band members were unable to join him here.

At the show in Market! Market! at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig last Sunday, Yamin had in tow a small contingent—a keyboardist, a guitarist, and a percussionist who ditched the drums for a shaker and tambourine.

The result, however brief the program, was an amazing acoustic performance of tracks from the artist's self-titled album. Yamin's band may have been incomplete, but every number was fueled with so much intensity that the audience clearly didn't care.

Even the stage, a stripped-down version of the "Idol" platform, seemed to punctuate the emotion in Yamin's vocals in "I'm the Man," "Train Wreck," "A Song for You," "One Word" and the Billboard chart-topper, "Wait for You."

Sitting on a stool through most of the songs, the 29-year-old artist needed only to raise his arms once each time he wanted the audience to groove to the beat—such as in the inspiring "Free" and breakup song "Movin' On"—and they enthusiastically complied.

New dimension

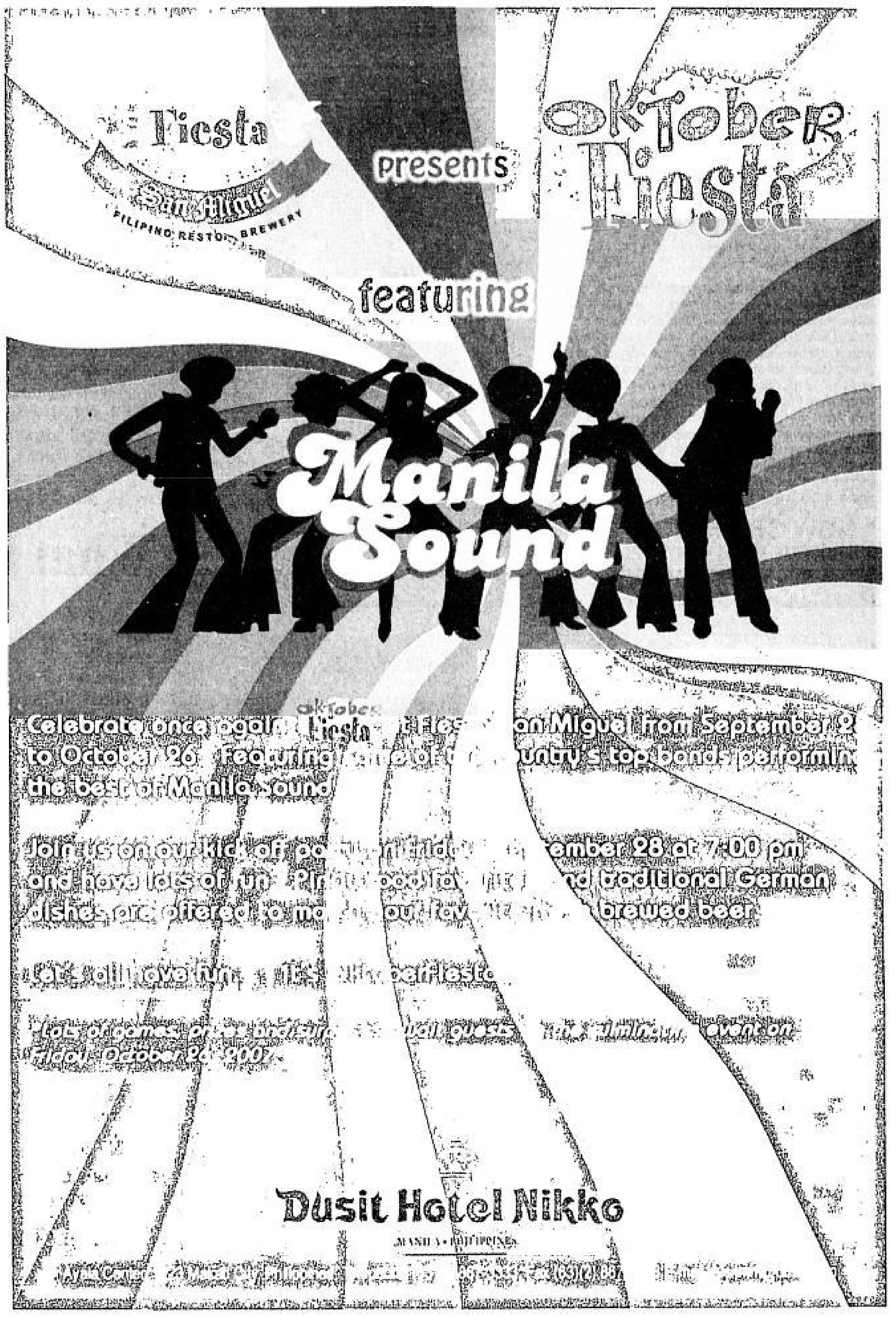
We agree with a friend's critique that Yamin's debut album sounded like "something we've heard before." Even so, his live performance gave the songs a new dimension.

We forgot that we were in the crowd outside the heavily cordoned area for VIPs and special-pass holders. The Market! Market! show made us wish the small stage was bigger, and the mall's activity center, a real concert venue.

Most people say acoustic shows are only for bars, cafés and small joints. Now we know for sure that it depends on who is performing. If it's Elliot Yamin, we certainly disagree.

LEO'S DOCU FOR PLANET EARTH

ARE drought, famine, severe flooding, hurricanes and acid rain isolated incidents? The documentary "The 11th Hour," produced and narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio, right, describes how human activity adversely affects the earth's ecosystems and what can be done to reverse the course. The docu features dialogues with world experts, including former Soviet Prime Minister Mikhail Gorbachev, renowned scientist Stephen Hawking, former CIA head R. James Woolsey and sustainable design experts William McDonough and Bruce Mau. The docu, distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures, opens soon in Metro Manila.



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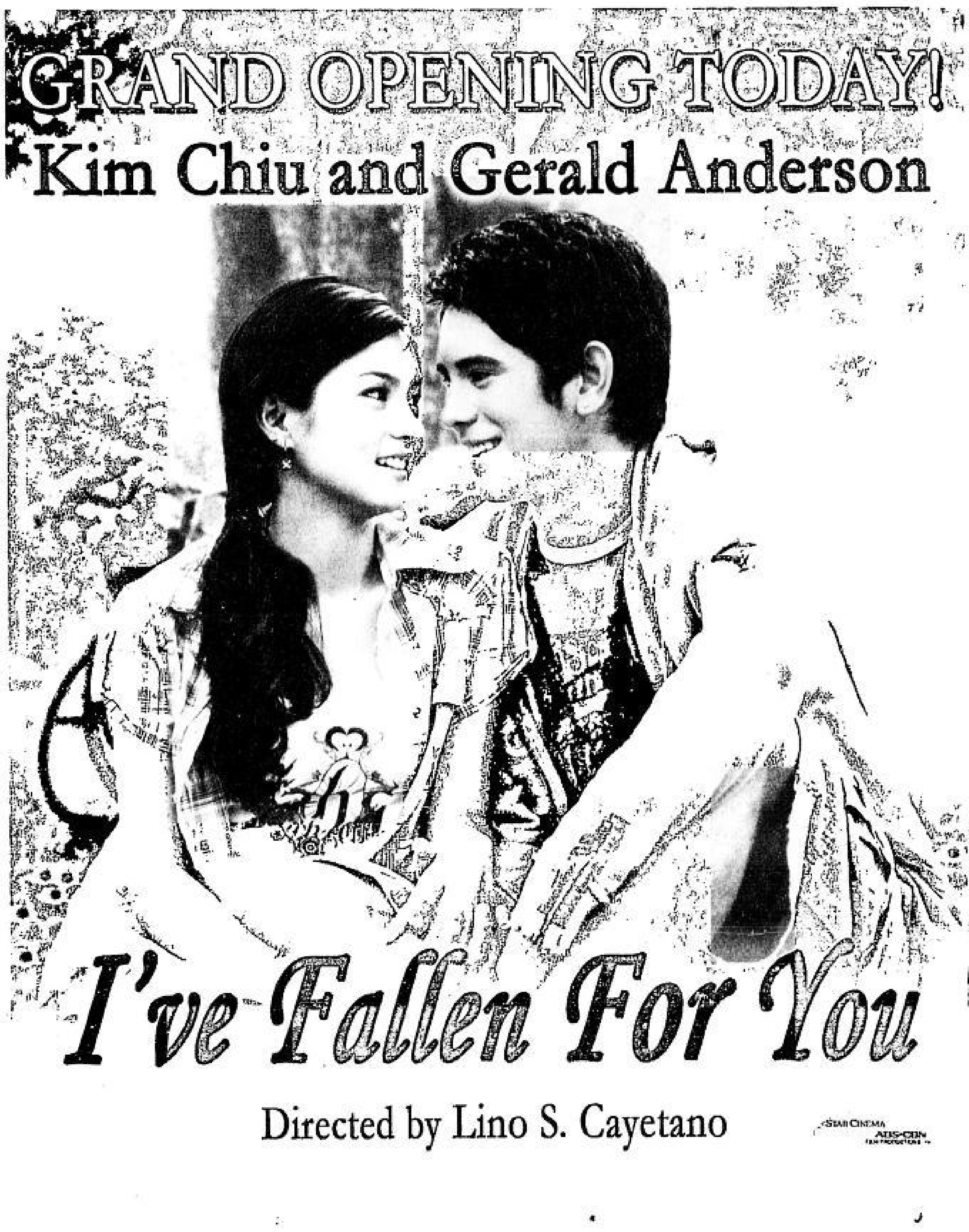

Tough time to be funny in the movies

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IS IT TRUE THAT ROBIN WILLIAMS' latest starrer, "License to Wed," didn't do as well as expected in the US on its opening weekend? If so, that's the second highly-touted comedy film (the first was "Evan Almighty") that has done disappointing business in the US this season.

What gives? Is this a sign of more "unfunny" things to come? Have viewers had their fill of comedies of late? Let's hope not, because we need to laugh—especially at this time when life has become so complicated and often so downbeat that the fun of untrammeled humor sure comes in handy to keep the blues and blahs away.

Some industry observers believe that the relatively poor showing of "License" amd "Evan" is a fluke, and not indicative of a growing anti-comedy trend. They point out that "Evan's" $32 million opening weekend gross wasn't great, but it wasn't all that bad either.

The big problem was, the film cost more to produce than any other comedy movie to date, hence its need to come up with *huge* grosses to end up in the black.

As for "License," Robin Williams may be a veritable comic genius—but, let's face it, his starrers' box-office record hasn't been all that great. While he's come up with some really big hits like "Mrs. Doubtfire," some of his movies have failed. So, "License" may not be as big a box-office aberration as others may believe.

In addition, "License" may not have found favor with some viewers because Williams plays a weirdly ornery character in it: A minister who gives engaged couples a really rough time, to find out if they will turn out to be great spouses and parents.

Black comedy

This is a "black comedy" concept that mainstream viewers may not be all that comfortable with. Imagine a servant of God with a mean, sadistic streak to him? His motivation may be good, but the methods he employs are sometimes shocking and even painful, so some conservative viewers may think: What's so funny about *that*?

These notes suggest that "License's" weak opening is self-instigated and doesn't portend a general malaise for comedy productions.

On the off chance that the tide has indeed turned for comedy movies in general, there's no lack of culprits to blame: The globe's many problems, disasters and conflicts, the war in Iraq, a creeping sense of cynicism, financial woes and increased competition in the workplace—even overpopulation and global warming get pulled into the equation!

But we choose to be more optimistic about the future of motion pictures, not only in the US but in other film markets, as well. Boosting our confidence is the recent announcement that Hollywood has just had its most prosperous summer season—hitting $4 billion in grosses for the very first time. This is a big recovery from only a few years back, when US movies were generally doing poorly at the tills.

What has turned the tide for the American movie industry this year? A lot of hit sequels—plus a number of small movies that unexpectedly did big business at the box office (like the current giant-killer, "Superbad").

This combination of studio and indie hits pushed summer season grosses into the $4 billion range.

Can US movies keep their momentum up? That'll be an increasingly tough feat to pull off, since some film franchises earn less and less from one sequel to the next—and indie "sleepers" like "Superbad" are more the exceptions than the rule!

What Pops ...

From page G1

"THERE was magic in our team-up."

Who are your greatest influences?

I learned a lot from Martin. I used to watch Sharon a lot, also Gary Valenciano and Kuh Ledesma. *Sa* foreign singers, I'm a Madonna fan. I love the way she reinvents herself. It's amazing that whatever it is that she tries out, somehow makes it. She knows her strength.

What's the music genre closest to your heart?

Fast, upbeat pop songs, as well as ballads. *Gusto ko rin yung maiiyak-iyak ka.*

What's the greatest ballad for you?

"It Might Be You." It's such a romantic song, *'yung* lyrics *kasi 'di ba,* "Something's telling me it might be you ..." Then you're telling yourself, yeah, you're the one, but then again ...

Did Martin share your fondness for Stephen Bishop?

I think so. We used to sing his songs on our TV show.

What sad experience has helped you as a person?

Sometimes you need them to make you a better person, although while they're actually happening to you, *parang* you can't breathe, you want it to end. But looking back, you learn from those moments and you become stronger and wiser.

How has the separation helped you?

I think I've become more confident. Before, people didn't expect me to have a voice, you know, I was always the quiet one.

Was there a point in your career when you thought you were at a dead end?

Yes, every so often when you're overworked and also when there are things that happen in your personal life and it coincides with your hectic schedule, you feel burned out.

You're referring to the separation?

Not even. Not just the separation. Sometimes you can't think well enough and you also make the wrong decisions when it comes to your professional life. I'm honest enough to tell myself *na naku, mali 'ata yung ginawa ko.*

Like what?

No more *na.*

Was there ever a time when you felt your talent was inadequate?

As an artist I want to better myself all the time. Usually when I watch the videotape of a show that went well, I say to myself, *kulang pa rin e.*

What's the greatest thing you learned from Martin, something you'll cherish forever?

Let's just talk about professional matters ... like, he works hard. Performance-wise, he can carry a show very well. I think we learned that from each other. I really enjoyed our team-up. Honestly we really worked well together. There was magic in it.

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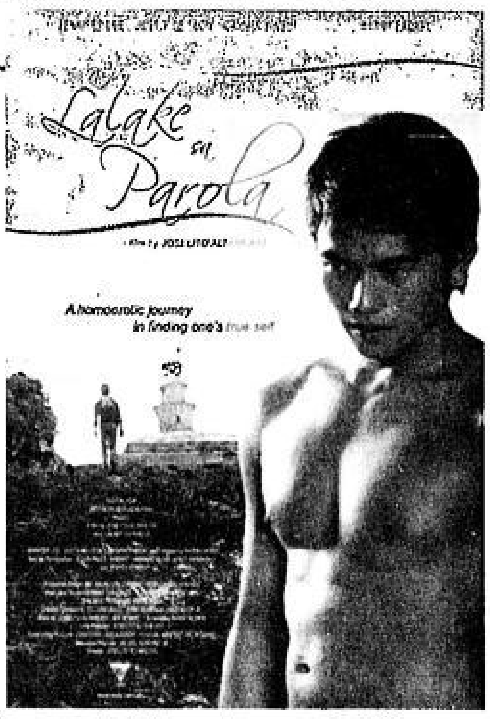

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GALLERIA

Starring:
Harry Laurel, Justin de Leon, Jennifer Lee, Sheree and Allan Paule

According to folklore, the fairy of the lighthouse shows herself every full moon to the man her heart desires. When this man succumbs to the fairy's charms and makes love to her, he will never long for any other woman. Woven into this legend is the story of Mateo (Harry Laurel), a lighthouse caretaker. Jerome (Justin de Leon), a gay man from the city finds himself deeply attracted to this simple yet seductive man upon meeting him. Soon, Mateo finds himself entering a subtle homoerotic journey with his newfound friend, while Suzet (Jennifer Lee), his girlfriend, continues to struggle for his love and attention. Will Mateo bravely cross the thin line between being straight and being gay in the midst of his conservative rural community?

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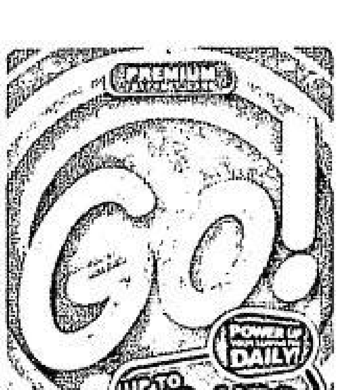

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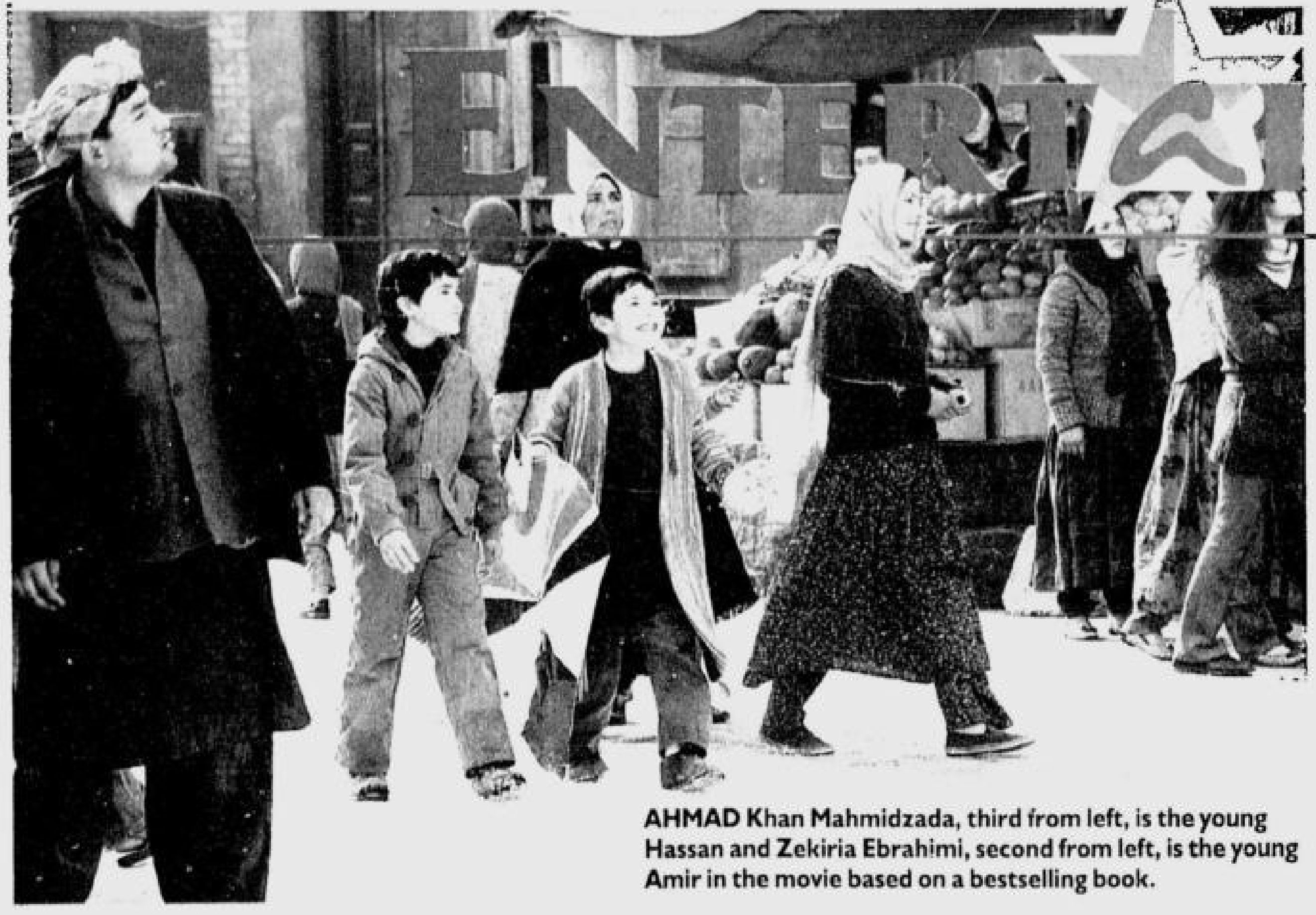

AHMAD Khan Mahmidzada, third from left, is the young Hassan and Zekiria Ebrahimi, second from left, is the young Amir in the movie based on a bestselling book.

'Kite Runner' movie hits snag

Crucial rape scene will offend 'all of Afghanistan,' according to young actor and his worried father

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—A 12-YEAR-OLD Afghan boy starring in the upcoming film "The Kite Runner" fears he and his family could be ostracized or even attacked because of a rape scene that he says he reluctantly acted in—a sequence the family wants cut.

Ahmad Khan Mahmidzada plays the role of young Hassan, who is raped by a bully in

'KITE RUNNER'/ H2

OPENING THIS WEEK

I've Fallen for You

Stars Kim Chiu, Gerald Anderson, Albert Martinez, Chin-Chin Gutierrez

Directed by Lino S. Cayetano

An Amboy (Anderson) and Pinay (Chiu) share the same name: Alex Reyes. Their paths cross and the rich guy and poor girl fall in love. Anderson insists, "Parents will definitely approve because kids will pick up a lot of lessons from this film." Chiu agrees: "The issues we tackle are very real." This is the directorial debut of Cayetano, who's described by Star Cinema as "meticulous and hardworking."

Resident Evil: Extinction

Stars Milla Jovovich, Oded Fehr, Mike Epps, Iain Glen

Directed by Russell Mulcahy

Based on a video game, this third installment of an action franchise follows a warrior woman (Jovovich), who continues her battles with flesh-eating zombies. Predicts John Monaghan of Detroit Free Press: "[Flick's] DVD copies will soon be joining the bargain bin." Matt Weitz of Dallas Morning News thinks: "[It's] a momentary diversion." Peter Vonder Haar of Film Threat comments: "For all the plot holes ... I still have a soft spot for it."

No Reservations

Stars Catherine Zeta-Jones, Aaron Eckhart, Abigail Breslin, Patricia Clarkson

Directed by Scott Hicks

Opposites attract in the kitchen, as a no-nonsense cook (Zeta-Jones) hooks up with a rebellious sous chef (Eckhart). John Anderson of Newsday rants that it's the cinematic "equivalent of mushroom soup and Ritz crackers." Amy Biancolli of Houston Chronicle concurs: "There's not much spice here." Charina Chocano of Los Angeles Times opines: "[It] presents life precisely and meticulously as it isn't."

The Nanny Diaries

Stars Scarlett Johansson, Laura Linney, Paul Giamatti, Alicia Keys

Directed by Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini

Based on a 2002 bestseller, this comedy seeks to expose the lifestyles of the rich and miserable in New York's Upper East Side. David Denby of New Yorker complains: "The material has been turned into a trivially narcissistic product for teenage girls." Stephen Holden of New York Times calls it "a scattershot screen adaptation." Roger Ebert of Chicago Sun-Times asserts: "Better titled [as] 'The Bonfire of the Nannies.'"

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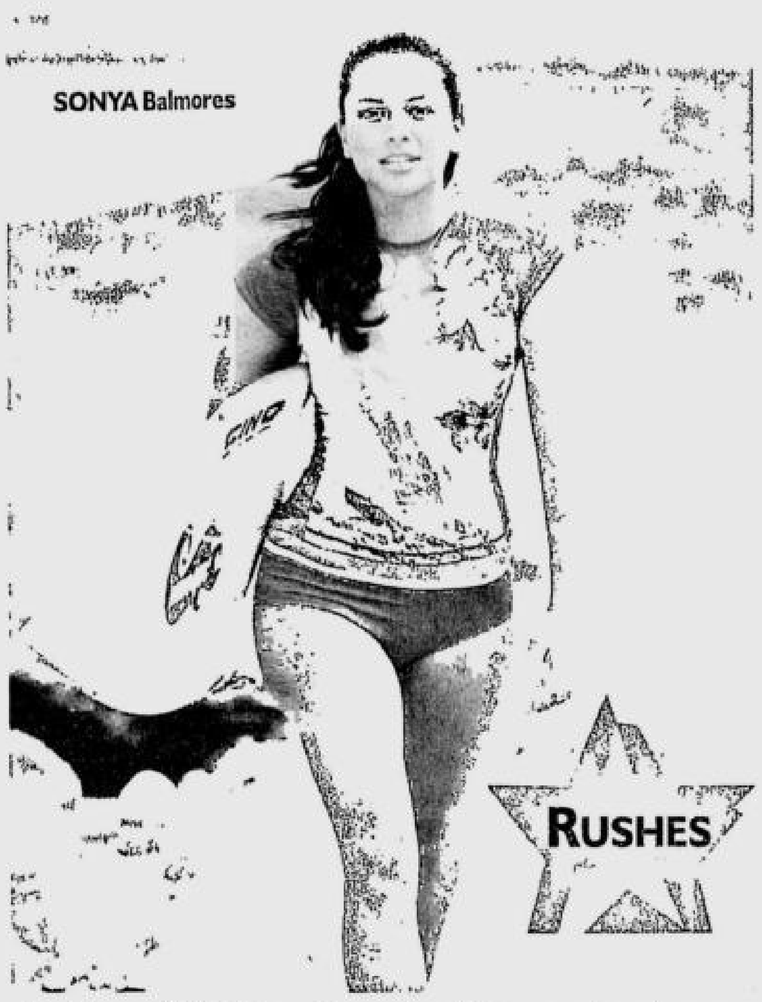
Fil-Am beauty in new series is former Miss Hawaii Teen USA

By the Inquirer and INQUIRER.net Entertainment Staff



SONYA Balmores

RUSHES

"BEYOND THE BREAK," A NEW series on Star World that looks like "Baywatch," and which premiered last night, has a Fil-Am beauty in its main cast. She is Sonya Balmores, who plays Kai Kealoha, a girl-next-door type who is an inveterate surfer. The pretty model with Ilocano blood grew up in Hawaii. "My character is also from Hawaii, so it fits me well," Sonya says. That's not the only reason. See photo.

Not for Americans

HONG KONG—Oscar-winning Taiwanese director Ang Lee has low expectations for his new spy thriller, "Lust, Caution" in the US, because, he says, it may be alien to American audiences. "Its pace, its film language—it's all very Chinese," Lee on Sunday told a forum for young directors here. "I used Western film noir [but] it's not very audience-friendly for a market like the US. It's not their subject matter." AP

Guess who's 60?

Celebrity birthdays this week, from a compilation by The Associated Press:

Sept. 23: Bruce Springsteen is 58.

Sept. 24: Nia Vardalos is 45.

Sept. 25: Barbara Walters is 78. Michael Douglas is 63. Cheryl Tiegs is 60. Heather Locklear is 46. Will Smith is 39. Catherine Zeta-Jones is 38.

Sept. 26: Bryan Ferry is 62. Olivia Newton-John is 59. Jim Caviezel is 39.

Sept. 27: Gwyneth Paltrow is 35. Avril Lavigne is 23.

Sept. 28: Brigitte Bardot is 73. Sylvia Kristel ("Emmanuelle") is 55. Janeane Garofalo is 43. Mira Sorvino is 40. Naomi Watts is 39. Hilary Duff is 20.

* * *

Top of the Talk Shows:

For those who missed last weekend's show biz gabfests. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

- Jennylyn Mercado on her alleged rift with boyfriend Patrick Garcia:

"*Siyempre nagkaroon ng problema. Sa mga shows ko, ganyan. Kumbaga, lahat ng* relationships *may limit e. Hindi pati trabaho papakialaman mo, 'yung gano'n. Parang nagkaroon kami ng problema pagdating sa* work *ko na, oo, eto na nga e nag-sa* start *na ulit ako sa* GMA, *bakit binibigyan niya ako ng* wall. *Na parang, hindi ikaw ang* manager *ko*." (Our guess? Miscommunication.)

- Mark Herras on the revival of his love team with Jennylyn Mercado amid problems with her current beau:

"Actually, *magiging* okay *'yung* love team *namin na hindi maapektuhan ang* relationship *nila*." (*Sayang naman ang* controversy factor.)

BILLY Crawford: "Sorry."

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

- Billy Crawford on rumors linking him to "Marimar" star Marian Rivera:

"She is very sweet... *mabait... maganda...* sexy. *Kaya lang, 'di ako makakaligaw ngayon sa posisyon kong ito.Hindi sa walang* time, *pero mas marami pang importante sa buhay ko*." (The truth doesn't always make a nice answer.)

- Billy relating his encounter with Sharon Cuneta over his "good kisser" remarks about Mega's daughter, KC Concepcion:

"I saw Tita Sharon *sa* 'Ouija' premiere. *Knowing that... 'yung* nonsense *na sinasabi ng mga tao, nakarating din sa kanya*... and out of respect, *nilapitan ko siya. Nag*-'hi' *ako*. And *'yun, tumalikod siya. Sabi niya, 'Ikaw ha, uupakan kita diyan.'* At first, I didn't know *kung nagbibiro siya, pero* I took it seriously. I apologized. 'Sorry, Tita, *'di na mauulit 'yan*, I didn't know it was gonna get this big.' *'Yun lang*. [When] I kissed [her] goodbye, I said, 'Tita, I have to go.' [She said] '*Sige, sige*, you go, go, go.'"

- Billy on apologizing to KC for the "good kisser" mishap:

"I said sorry but... *wala namang masama sa sinabi ko. Walang bastusan e*... If I hurt her in any way, sorry. *Pero* I [still] don't think I [did anything] hurtful."

- KC: "Apology accepted."

(Atta girl.)

MARICEL Soriano

- Maricel Soriano on being "Lola" Mary:

"Very happy. *Hindi naman tayo dapat na-o-*offend *sa gano'n kasi parang ano 'yun e*, sign of respect."

- Maricel on having "mellowed-down" from being "*taray* queen":

"*Parang ayokong gamitin 'yung* word *na* 'mellow.' *Parang* it's more of, *kasi marami ka nang nauunawaan*."

- Pops Fernandez on the reason that she revealed in a magazine interview the reasons behind her separation from Martin Nievera, 10 years after they broke up:

"I'm ready now. *Madami nga kasi ... parating kinu*-question *ako. Parang, bakit ang tigas-tigas mo*? How come *hindi mo siya binigyan ng* chance?" (*'Yun lang*?)

- Martin's reaction:

"I think the best reaction is to not have one... to not make it any bigger than it already is. I'd be lying if I said it wasn't a very painful thing to read again. [But] I think it's kinda old news already." (That's kinda correct.)

- Aiko Melendez's lawyer George Soriano, describing the actress when she first consulted him about her marital problems:

"She was trembling... *nanlalamig po ang kamay niya*. She was *malamig na nanginginig*." (Got that.)

- Soriano clarifying the status of the Aiko-Martin Jickain split-up:

"It does not foreclose the possibility of reconciliation. The fact of separation has not yet been discussed. They are separated in fact. But the legal separation or annulment or whatever has not yet been discussed as of yet." (English, please?)

- Martin Jickain, on protecting his daughter Marthena:

"*Aasikasuhin namin ang anak namin. Mahal na mahal ko ang anak ko e. Yung away namin, sa aming dalawa na lang yon*." (Meaning, we'll hear no more?)

- Gretchen Barretto, on talk that long-time partner Tony Boy Cojuangco is attracted to "Marimar" star Marian Rivera:

"*Ang mga kaibigan ni* Tony *aabangan si* Marian. *Ako ang inaabangan ni* Tony. *Ako ang gigiling-giling para sa kanya*."

GRETCHEN Barretto

- Miss Earth 2004 Priscilla Meirelles, on John Estrada:

"I'm with him... no matter what happens... as long as he permits me to stay in his life."

- John's message to Priscilla:

"I just want to thank you. I cannot find the words to say how much you mean to me. You know, how much I love you. What I really want to tell you is thank you for accepting me in your life. And I love you." ("This is a recording." Joke!)

GINA PAREÑO is the "Kubrador."

'Kubrador' to open NY series in January

By Marinel R. Cruz

JEFFREY JETURIAN'S "KUBRAdor (The Bet Collector)" will open the Global Lens 2008 series in January at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, INQUIRER Entertainment learned.

"Kubrador," which chronicles three days in the life of a jueteng collector, will first be shown on Jan. 10 and will run for a week, according to Santhosh Daniel, program director of the American-based distribution firm Global Film Initiative.

"It is an excellent work and we are proud to have it as part of our cinematic program," Daniel said in an e-mail to Joji Alonso, "Kubrador" producer.

"Kubrador" will be one of the 10 award-winning narratives to be screened in Global Lens 2008, along with feature films from Indonesia, China, Argentina, South Africa, Croatia, Iran, Lebanon and India.

After New York, Global Lens 2008, now in its fifth year, will embark on a year-long tour of over 30 cities across the US.

Global Films Initiative has promised to cover Jeturian's airfare expense, said Daniel.

'Foster' pullout

Meanwhile, Robbie Tan, producer of Brillante "Dante" Mendoza's "Foster Child," confirmed the pulling out of the film in several Metro Manila theaters due to revenue loss.

"This is the sad plight of every independent film," Tan told the INQUIRER on Monday. "Theater owners don't care about how hard a production team worked on a film. If it doesn't perform at the box office, it gets replaced."

Tan said "Foster Child" was pulled out of theaters in Ayala and SM malls on the third day of its supposed week-long run. Robinsons malls screened it for one whole week.

Gary V set to perform in big Singapore event

FRESH FROM THE SUCCESS of the Philippine General Hospital's centennial celebration in which he was the featured artist, 2007 Awit Award winner Gary Valenciano performs on Sept. 30 in the Prestige 7th Anniversary Ball at the Ritz-Carlton Millennia Grand Ballroom in Singapore.

The Prestige Ball is said to be Singapore's biggest social event this month. Reportedly set to attend are prominent and influential personalities, including producers of luxury brands and their business partners in the region.

SHOW TIME

GARY Valenciano

'Kite Runner' movie . . .

From page H1

a pivotal part of the bestselling novel, on which the movie is based. His family says the scene will offend Afghans.

"In Afghanistan, rape is not acceptable at all. This is against Afghan dignity. This is against Afghan culture," the boy's father, Ahmad Jaan Mahmidzada, told The Associated Press. "When we argued, they said, 'We will cut this part of the film. We will take it out of the script. This part will not be in the film.'"

Surprised

The film's producers, Bennett Walsh and Rebecca Yeldham, said they were surprised by the father's comments "about not being comfortable with the difficult scene" and that they "have the utmost concern for the welfare" of the boys who were in the film.

"When we visited with all the actors and their families in Kabul earlier this year, the families addressed their concerns directly with us and said they were fine with the content of the scene, as long as we portrayed it in a sensitive manner," Walsh and Yeldham told the AP via e-mail. "We made this a priority and followed their specific instructions."

Play date

"The Kite Runner," based on the 2003 bestselling novel by Afghan-American writer Khaled Hosseini, tells the story of two boys and how their relationship is transformed by the act of violence. The story's main character, Amir, witnesses the rape of friend Hassan but does nothing to stop it.

'In Afghanistan, rape is not acceptable. This is against Afghan dignity and culture'

"The Kite Runner" is scheduled for US release in late November. Hosseini's second bestselling novel, "A Thousand Splendid Suns," came out earlier this year.

Mahmidzada worries the story will stir ethnic tensions because it plays on stereotypes of Afghan ethnic groups, pitting a Pashtun bully against a lower-class Hazara boy.

Ethnic strife

Pashtuns, Afghanistan's largest ethnic group, and the Hazara minorities were among several ethnic-based factions that fought bitterly during the country's post-Soviet era civil war. Thousands of Hazaras were slain as the predominantly Pashtun Taliban seized power in the mid-1990s.

Ethnic violence has generally subsided since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, but Afghans fear any trigger that could revive tensions. Many Afghans were angered by the 2006 Indian film "Kabul Express," which portrays Hazara militants as brutal and thuggish.

Hefty sum

Ahmad Khan was paid $10,000 to portray Hassan—a hefty sum in Afghanistan, where teachers earn only about $70 per month. But the boy with the endearing, crooked smile said he would never have taken the role had he known Hassan is raped. The family found out about the scene only days before it was shot.

DIRECTOR Marc Forster ("Monster's Ball," "Finding Neverland"), in black coat, on location in China with his two young lead stars.

"They didn't give me the script. They didn't give me the story of 'The Kite Runner.' If I knew about the story, I wouldn't have participated as an actor in this film," he told the AP.

A mess

The father and son, backed by other Afghans on the set's location in China, argued with the filmmakers, and the boy refused to act out the scene.

Mahmidzada said the director told him: "The film will be a mess without this part."

"But I told him, 'I'm not thinking about your film. I'm thinking about myself.' We are Afghan, and this is not acceptable to us at all," he said.

They are also concerned that Afghans will harass Ahmad Khan if they find out his character is raped.

"The people of Afghanistan do not understand that it's only acting or playing a role in a film. They think it has actually happened," Mahmidzada said. When the filmmakers wanted his son to take off his trousers for the shooting, Mahmidzada refused to let him do it.

Ahmad Khan worried that his schoolmates will make fun of him. "It's not one or two people that I have to explain to," he said. "It's all of Afghanistan. How do I make them understand?"

If the film is screened in Afghanistan, Ahmad Khan said his family will lose its dignity.

Manizha Naderi, an Afghan-American working in Kabul, said that if the film gets a lot of publicity, the family has reason for concern.

Bright side

"If people don't see it, then nobody knows, but if people see it, then ... they'll blame the family and say, 'You're giving Afghans a bad name,'" Naderi said.

Mahmidzada said the company has promised to take care of his family if anything happens to them as a result of the film.

Although he did not particularly like playing the rape scene, Ahmad Khan enjoyed the shoot and wants to act more.

His suggestion to the film company? "They should take us out of Afghanistan." *AP*

Ai-Ai is 'Tanging Ina' . . .

From page H4

gets crazy there during summer," Zsa said.

"Try walking around with Dolphy there and you'll need to stop for a picture or autograph at every step. If we want private time, Bora's not the place for us. Wherever we are, what matters is we have uninterrupted time together away from it all."

Now you know why their May-December romance has outlasted all calendars!

Diet's 'kids'

Diether Ocampo sent me this text: "We made it! My K.I.D.S. foundation just finished 'A Trek to Remember.' We brought school supplies, toys, clothes and food to the indigenous kids of Naswak Bokod, Benguet. It was a 14-kilometer trek to reach the Kalanguya tribe. Tiring but fulfilling!"

Diet's "adopted kids" will never be on a diet when it comes to good stuff.

Unexpected gift

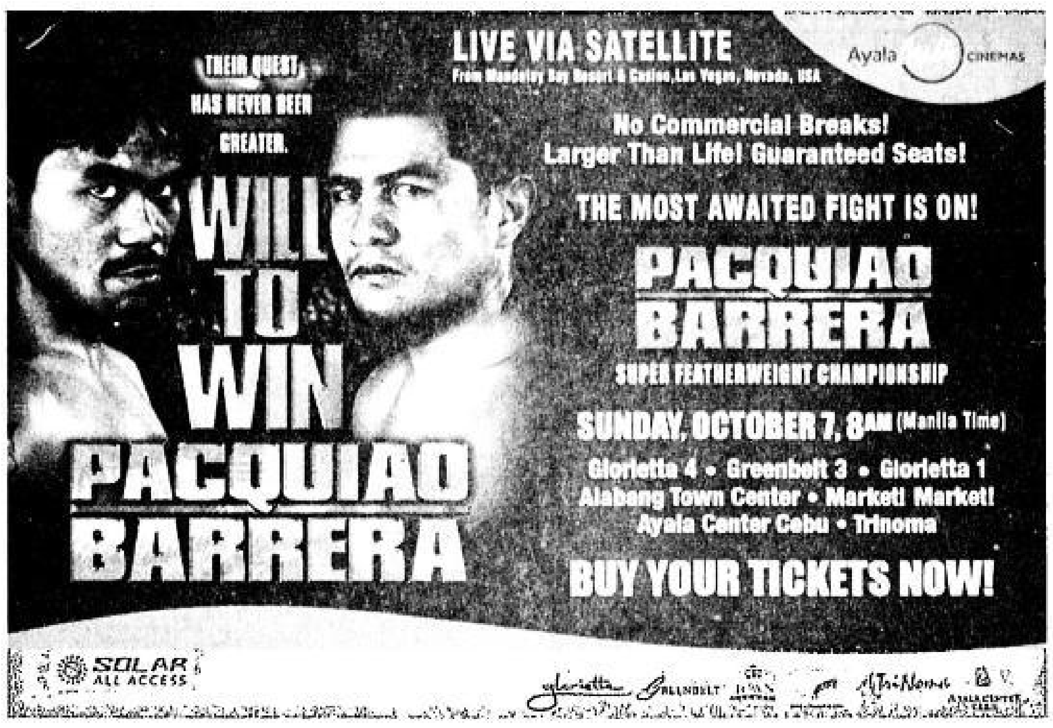
Jed Madela sounded like a kid when he told me about an unexpected gift he got from **Martin Nievera**.

"Mart, Gary V and I were exchanging notes about our iPhones. Mart asked if I already had a Bluetooth headset. I told him I'd buy one when I go back to the US. He pulled out one from his bag and gave it to me!"

Speaking of Martin Nievera, he seemed upset about **Pops'** tell-all magazine interview regarding their failed marriage. I know the whole story. Pipay licked her wounds for the longest time. Does Mart resent Pipay's exposé because he's trying to save face?

That Pops can now talk about her pain doesn't mean she's no longer bitter about it. Hit songs can only gain adulation for Martin, never public sympathy.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.



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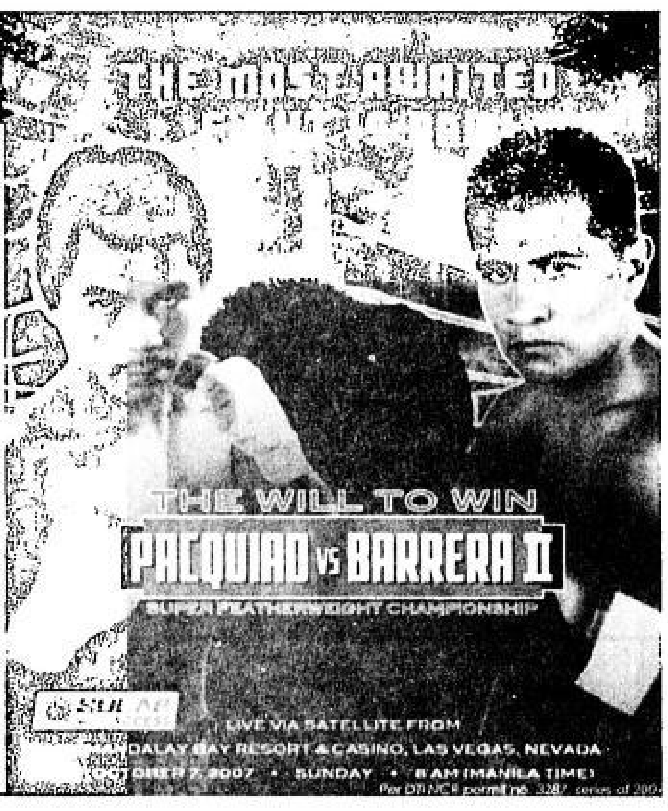

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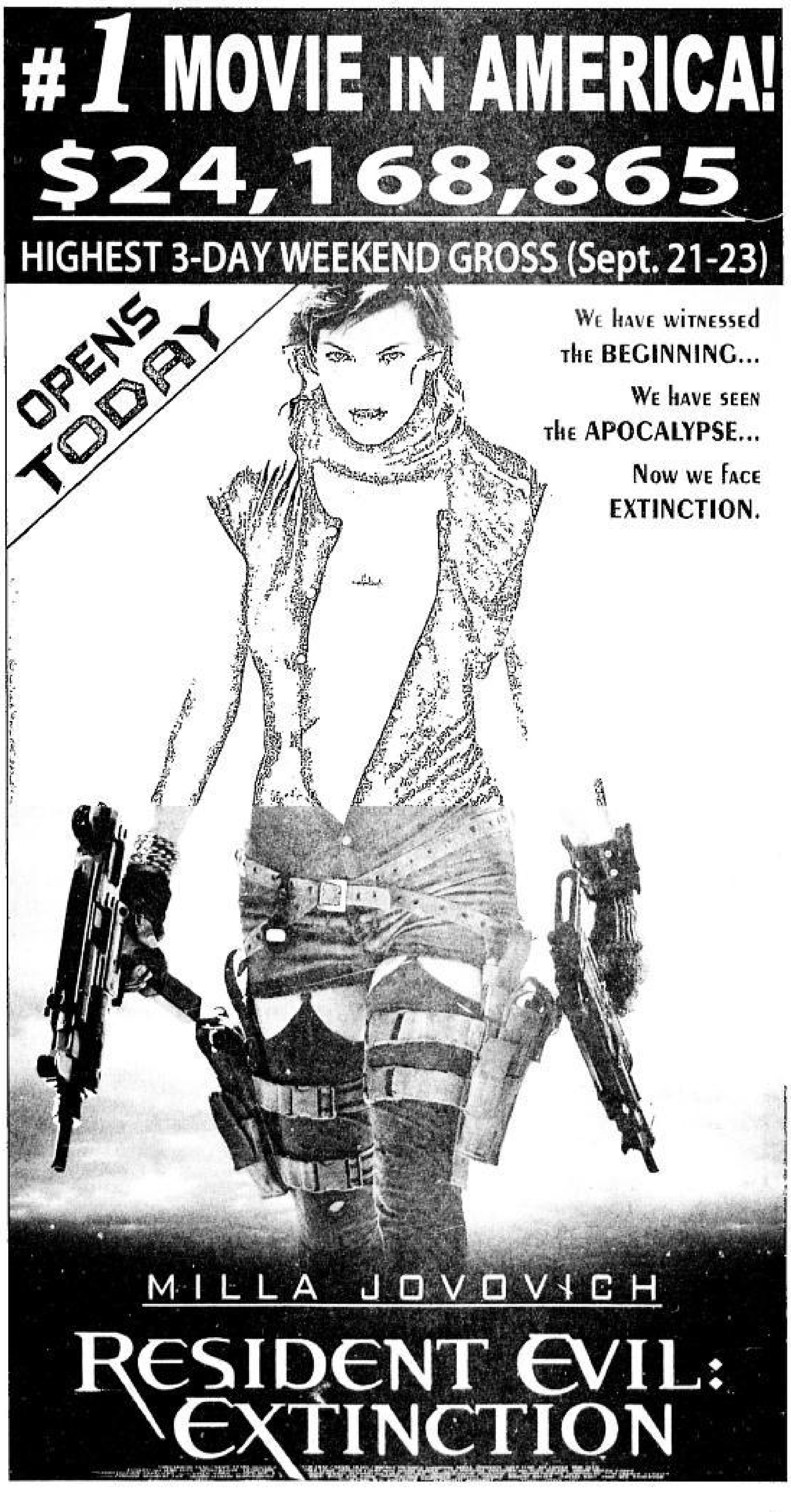
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11 NO RESERVATION
12 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

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Ai-Ai is 'Tanging Ina' on and off screen

'Superwomom' takes motherhood fairly seriously but keeps it as fun as possible

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

FOR **AI-AI DE LAS ALAS**, MS "TANGING Ina" on and off screen, motherhood is a daily challenge.

"*Buti na lang di pa naubos* patience *ko sa mga* ex *ko kaya* super patient *pa rin ako* as a single mom," she told us, laughing. "Once *nung may* serious talk *ako* with my kids, I was about to cry when I told them never to forget the lesson from 'Finding Nemo' that family means no one gets left behind. They corrected me, said it was from 'Lilo & Stitch.' *Natawa na lang ako imbes na maiyak!*"

A "superwomom" like Ai takes motherhood seriously but keeps it fun.

Next to laughter, Ai said the best medicine she gave her kids was Neo-Kiddielets, a chewable children's fever medicine.

Bridal car

Jomari Yllana plays an ex-Saudi worker/entrepreneur in ABS-CBN's new *telefantasya*, "Lastikman" (Mondays to Fridays after "Kokey"). In real life, Jom has also ventured into business. Since his biz deals with cars, I asked what bridal car he had in mind for girlfriend **Pops Fernandez**.

"A silver spur Rolls Royce, like the one **Nicole Kidman** rode in on her wedding day, or a '60s Benz 600 limo," he said. "Only the best for my bride."

Will the racer in Jom go "vroom vroom" to be a groom again?

Healthy partners

Fab sistahs **Rachel** and **Barni Alejandro**, along with their BFs **Philip Palma** and **Brian Banta** opened "Sexy Chef" at the ABS-CBN Loop. Three years after their successful South Beach Diet delivery service, it's time they had their first sit-down dining location right in the hub of celebs who are all figure-conscious (Call 911-SEXY for orders.).

Rachel and Philip's one-year-and-a-half relationship is as healthy as the food they serve. But they are not exactly exempted from intrigues. Philip used to date **Aiko Melendez** and **Liz Almoro**. Does he have any reaction to Aiko's recent split-up with **Martin Jickain** and Liz's battle with **Willie Revillame**?

"He would rather keep mum, out of respect," said Rachel. No to generous servings of intrigue (and fat) for the cool biz and love partners.

Private time

Zsa Zsa Padilla and **Dolphy** took their girls **Zia** and **Nicole** to Boracay for Zia's birthday. "I honestly haven't been much of a Bora fan. It

AI-AI/ H3

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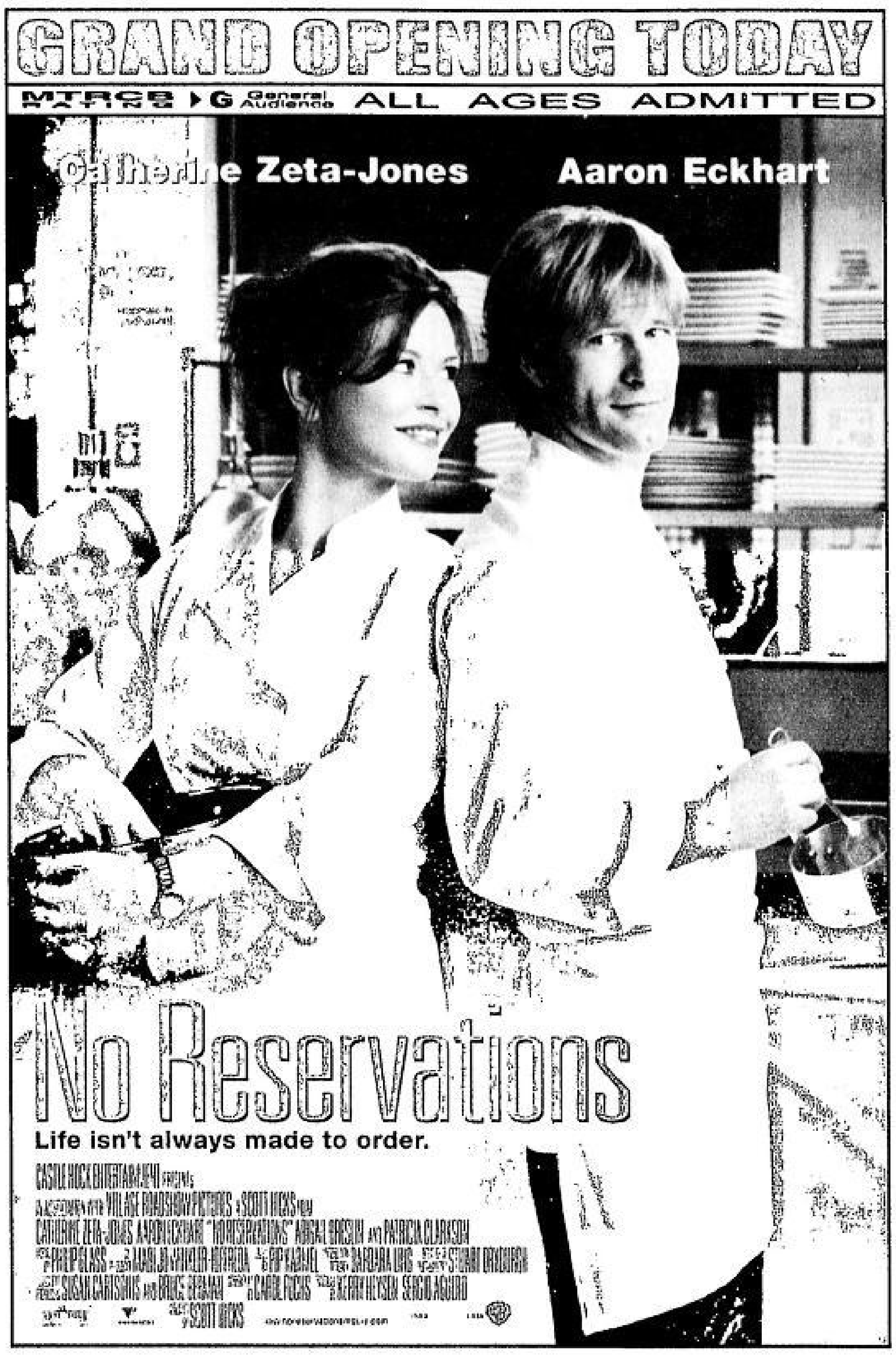

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AYALA CENTER CEBU	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	DAYWATCH			
MARKET! MARKET!	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	ROGUE ASSASIN	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	NO RESERVATIONS		
TRINOMA	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	ROGUE ASSASIN	I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY GUARANTEED SEATS	NO RESERVATIONS GUARANTEED SEATS	SHOOT 'EM UP	THE BRAVE ONE	THX RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS

TRINOMA
- THX Certified
- All-Digital Sound
- All-Stadium Seating
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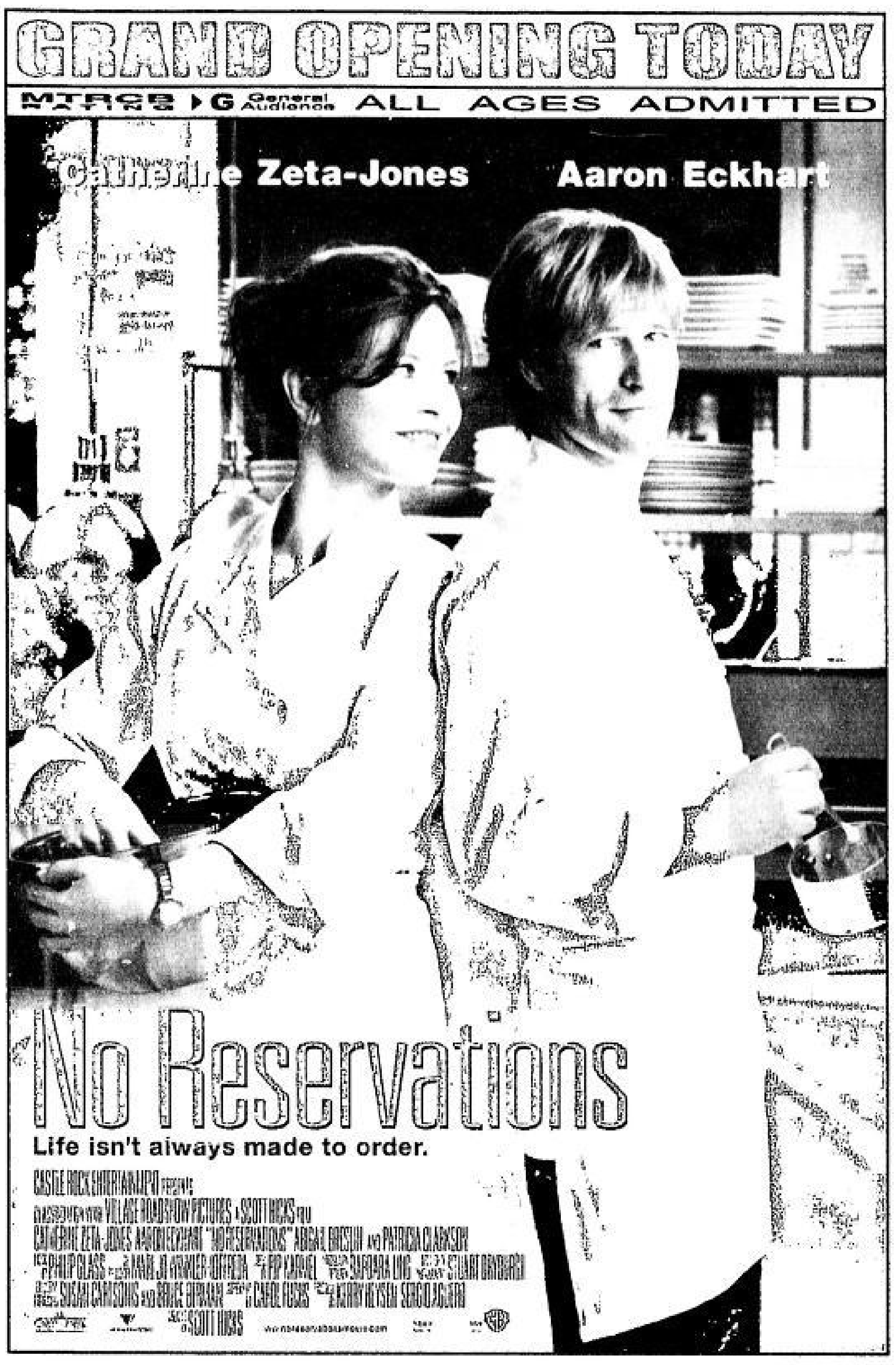

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MTRCB RATING G General Audience ALL AGES ADMITTED
Catherine Zeta-Jones Aaron Eckhart
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Life isn't always made to order.
CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES A SCOTT HICKS FILM
CATHERINE ZETA-JONES AARON ECKHART "NO RESERVATIONS" ABIGAIL BRESLIN AND PATRICIA CLARKSON
MUSIC BY PHILIP GLASS ... STUART DRYBURGH
... SUSAN CARTSONIS AND BRUCE BERMAN ... CAROL FUCHS ... KERRY HEYSEN SERGIO AGUERO
DIRECTED BY SCOTT HICKS

SHANG CINEPLEX
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GLORIETTA 4	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	2 I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	3 THX RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS	
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GREENBELT 1	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	2 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX NO RESERVATIONS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 JOSHUA GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SHOOT 'EM UP GUARANTEED SEATS	5 I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 NO RESERVATIONS		
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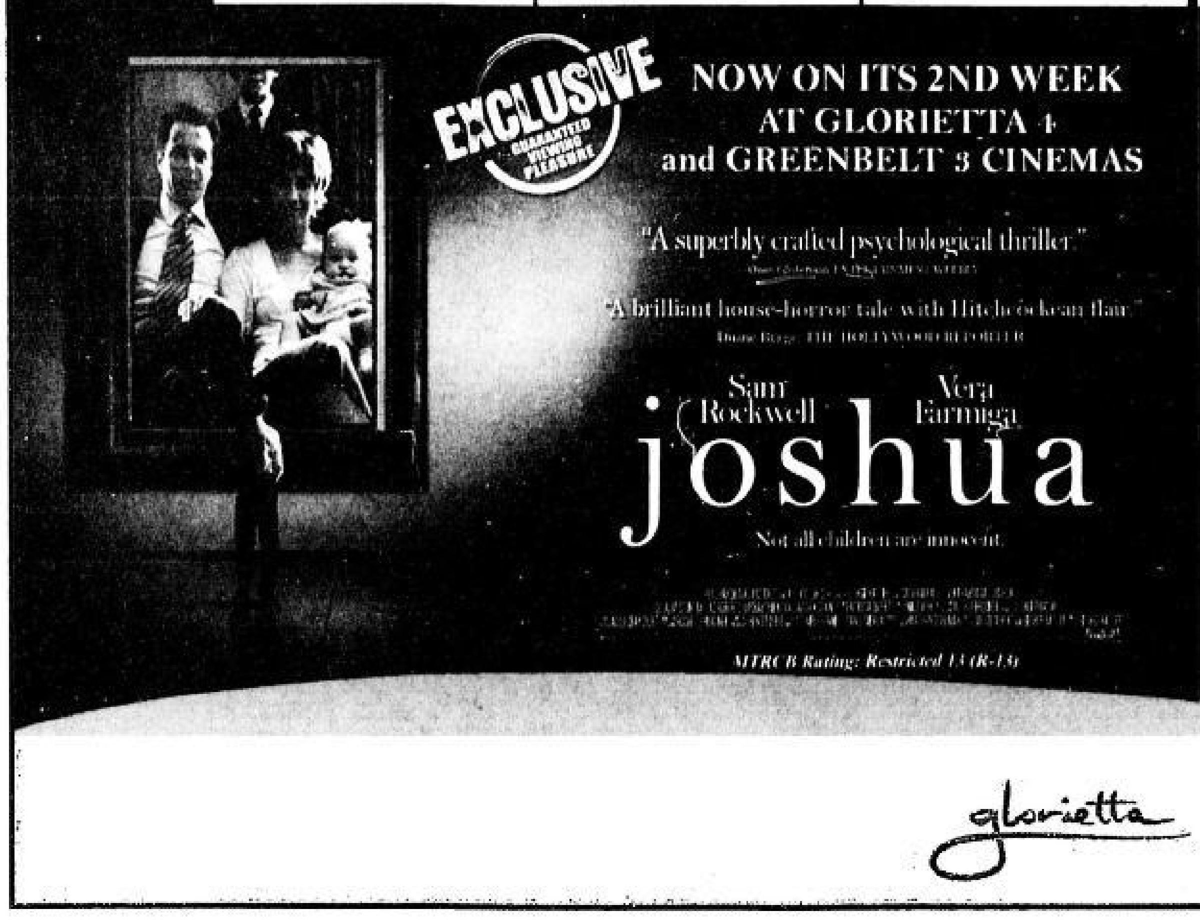

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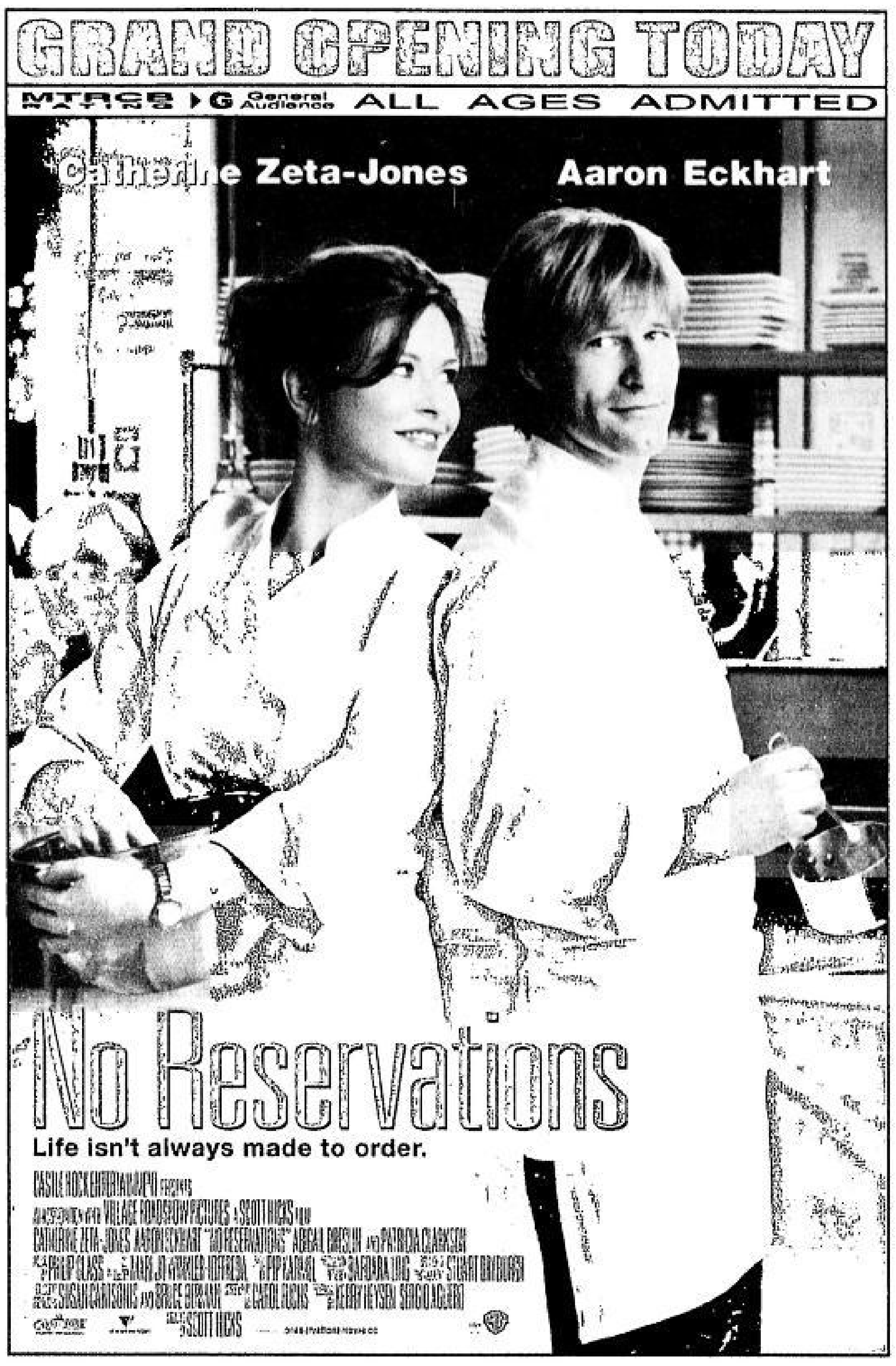

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